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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY B7

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YOUR WEEKEND B2

the johns hopkins News-Letter

VOLUME CXVI, ISSUE XXII

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APRIL 5, 2012



COURTESY OF PRATIK SARKAR

Students played with colored dust and threw it on each other in honor of Holi, a Hindu festival that celebrates the start of spring.

Music and celebration on the beach for Holi

By GAURI WAGLE
Staff Writer

Colors flew on the beach this past Sunday afternoon, as Hopkins students celebrated Holi. The traditionally Indian festival includes loud music, dancing

and the throwing of colored powder. The cultural and religious significance of this holiday is celebrated throughout India, and students recreated this importance on campus.

Association for India's Development Johns

Hopkins University (AI-DJHU), together with the Indian graduate students and Hindu Students Council created an event reminiscent of those celebrated in India. Participants threw boxes and boxes of colored powder,

and students enjoyed the bhangra music and Indian food.

Sruhi Sakamuri, a senior on the Hindu Students Council, loved that the celebrations were so true to the customs she

SEE Holi, PAGE A5

Security holds first awareness week

By CHRISTINA WARNER
and RACHEL WITKIN
Staff Writers

Campus Safety & Security held its first annual Security Week from April 2 to 6. The event aimed to provide students with the opportunity to experience and sign up for various Security programs.

Junior Nick Trenton, the Chairman of the SGA's Safety and Development Committee came up with the idea to have a Security Week. The Safety and Development Committee was created this year to replace the Student Involvement Committee, which had a much broader focus.

"This [committee]

SEE SECURITY, PAGE A4

Valerie Plame Wilson speaks at FAS

By MARY KATHERINE ATKINS
Copy Editor

The Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) hosted Valerie Plame Wilson, a public advocate, novelist and former covert CIA Operations Officer, on Tuesday in Shriver Hall. Wilson addressed Hopkins students and faculty about the importance of holding the government accountable for their words and deeds.

On July 14, 2003, Washington Post journalist Robert Novak infamously revealed Wilson's cover as a CIA operative in his column.

"It was done as political payback to my husband, Joe Wilson, in retaliation, because he had gone after the central primary rationale that the White House had given for going to war in Iraq," Wilson said.

Wilson began her speech by discussing her motives for joining the CIA, a question she is frequently asked.

"The truth is, I joined



CATHERINE GUNTHER/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

the CIA because it was a way of serving my country," Wilson said.

One of Wilson's roles as an operations officer in the CIA was to protect America's national security by preventing the proliferation

of weapons of mass destruction. Although she is no longer with the CIA, Wilson continues to fight against nuclear proliferation as a public advocate.

After outlining her

SEE WILSON, PAGE A4

Univ. admits students

for class of 2016

By NASH JENKINS
Senior Staff Writer

has certainly gotten stronger, and the Class of 2016 confirms this," Conley said.

Statistics depict a marked increase in both academic ability and diversity from years past. Students admitted to the Class of 2016 had an average SAT score of 1450 and an average unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.81.

The group is both geographically and demographically heterogeneous: 65 nations and all 50 states are represented in the mix, a quarter of which consists of underrepresented minority students — African-American, Hispanic and Native American applicants — and 38 percent of which

SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE A5

Homewood Museum revisits historic roots with farm day

By NATHALIA GIBBS
Photography Editor

The Homewood Museum held its Historic Farm Day celebration last Sunday afternoon to commemorate the history of agriculture in Baltimore, including the museum itself, which was originally

a farm. The festivities included the museum's current exhibition, *Federal Foodies: From Farm to Table in Early Baltimore*.

Visitors were able to participate in pony rides and a petting farm. The museum also offered planting lessons, a speaker and a tour of the old farm grounds.



GEORGINA EDIONSERI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Llamas, ponies, rabbits and chickens stormed Homewood on Sunday.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Annual student employment week for students, faculty, staff

By ASHLEY EMERY
News & Features Editor

National Student Employment Week, from April 2 to 6, recognized and celebrated the approximately 4,200 undergraduate and graduate students who work on campus and in the community while attending Hopkins. The week also aims to recognize the efforts of the faculty and staff who employ the students.

"This week is really to honor the contributions made by our students, but also to thank all of the staff and faculty who hire, supervise and mentor them because it really is an extension of the classroom," D. Lynn O'Neil, Director of Student Employment Services, and coordinator of the week, said. "You're doing hands-on. You're learning time management. You're learning team-building skills. You're learning so many professional skills, working in the offices and labs, that you cannot learn in the classroom... it's part of the students' educational development."

National Student Employment Week is endorsed by Governor

This past Tuesday, the 20th annual award ceremony in the Glass Pavilion named and honored both the Student Employee and Supervisor of the Year, and celebrated all nominees. There were approximately 120 attendees at the award ceremony. Every student who is nominated and their supervisor were invited to attend, as well as all of the employers nominated by the students.

The award ceremony has exponentially grown since its inception.

"I remember our first year of doing this. We invited the student who won, all the deans, the vice president of HR... it was all of the dignitaries and the student. After that, we knew that we had to invite all the nominees," O'Neil said. "[We] celebrate the spirit of student employment from all perspectives—the students, the staff and the faculty. Everyone does so much."

This past year, 37 students and 13 staff or faculty were nominated for the Student Employee and Supervisor of the Year. Senior Paul Gottlich, who works for University Administration in the Department of Building Operations and

Engineering Academic Affairs Office, was named the Supervisor of the Year at the ceremony. Swadow was nominated by sophomore Marisa Babb.

Senior Kerry Best came in second place for the Student Employee of the Year award, and received \$250. She received five nominations from faculty and staff in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, as well as one from her supervisor in Biophysics. She works in both departments.

Student Employment Week sought to encourage employers to reward all their student workers for their dedication and performance.

"We just want to give back, because the students give so much to us. And we want all of the departments to do something for their students this time of year," O'Neil said.

O'Neil coordinated the gifts that were given to student workers on behalf of their employers. Gifts included cupcakes, balloons, ice cream deliveries, gift jars and snack bags.

"We posted temp jobs because we just needed students to make deliveries [of gifts] this week to make it easy on departments. We said, 'Look we really want you to do something for your students. We're going to make it easy on you,'" O'Neil said.

The food festivities were not confined to student workers; free food was available in Garland Hall all week to bring awareness to student employment.



COURTESY OF STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
The performance of student employees was recognized on campus with various gifts, prizes and awards.

Additionally, Student Employment Services sponsored a survey for students to collect information about student perceptions of employment.

O'Neil emphasized the

strength of and opportunities gained through student employment.

"Student employment is far more than a paycheck... Yes, it is to make extra money, but it's also a great way

to network. You're building that foundation for references when you're getting ready for graduate school or beyond. And you're getting an experience that you'll never forget."

Berzoff-Cohen creates Baltimore Intersection

By SUZ AMEDI
Staff Writer

It is difficult to assess the long-term impact that poverty has on Baltimore. 40 percent of public school students fail to graduate on time and 1 in 3 of youth are living in poverty. Some may student Zeke Berzoff-Cohen saw a rich opportunity for improvement. As a graduate student at the Hopkins School of Public Policy, Cohen is focusing on education, urban policy and critical race theory—which he describes as a "create your own mystery kind of thing."

However, prior to entering graduate school, Cohen had already co-founded his own non-profit organization to train Baltimore youth in community-organizing skills. And thus, Cohen and Yasmene Mumby, another Hopkins alumna, created Baltimore Intersection.

The program consists of three stages—first, teaching community organizing skills to a group of Baltimore youth. Second, asking them to assess the communities' needs and inefficiencies and, third, addressing these needs.

"I think when we think of inner city kids, we think of them as part of the problem, as victims or (at best) as by-standers, but what if we shift that paradigm and make them the solution to the problem? That's what we wanted to do through Project Intersection," Cohen said.

Perhaps every moment in Cohen's life has led him to his passion—community organization and problem-solving. The most pivotal moment for him and his greatest inspiration for Project Intersection, according to Cohen, was during his stint with Teach for America after graduating Goucher College. He taught in West Baltimore at George Towson Elementary Middle School in the heart of Sandtown-Winchester.

"[The neighborhood is] economically devastated by industrialization, segregation, and white-black flight," Cohen said.

The community's main economy was the drug market, and Cohen was devastated to see high school kids doing drugs on his way to school each day. One day, he stopped to ask one of the kids where he had gone to school and how he had gotten into the position he was in only to discover that the boy had attended George Towson Elementary Middle School and dropped out of school in the ninth grade to support his family and his siblings.

And that was when Cohen realized that he could not affect the change he wanted to see in the area only through teaching. Social change would have to come through Baltimore youth themselves.

"We were losing a significant portion of our kids," Cohen said. "and in order to combat the poverty and the drug abuse and the crime and all the social ills I was seeing, the young people themselves had to get involved. I was not going to be able to fix these problems. If education inequity is the civil rights struggle of this generation, which I believe it is, I have to ask myself why we haven't enlisted this generation of students in the fight just like we did in the civil rights era when young people were marching, bitten by dogs and jailed for what they believed in."

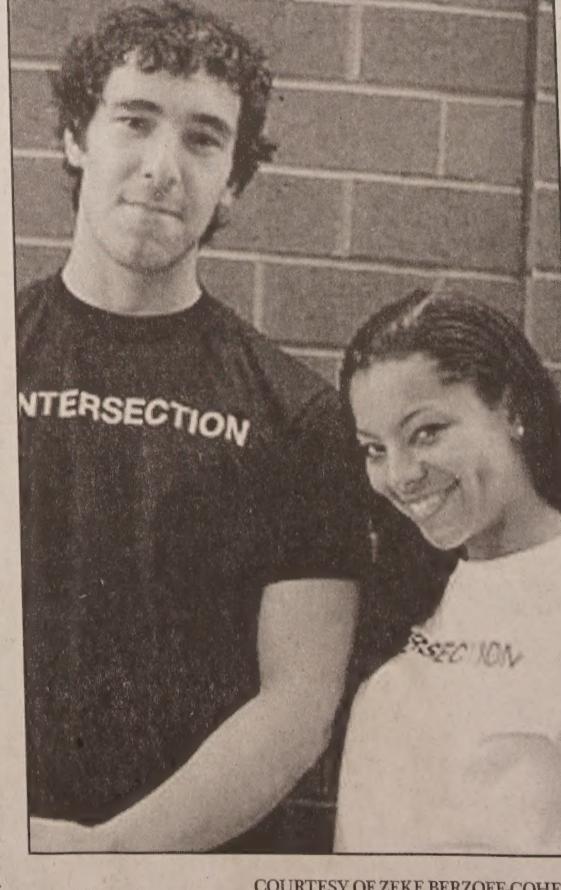
And it was this event that spurred Cohen and Mumby to establish Project Intersection to target students who were having difficulties in a normal academic setting.

Cohen's activist roots go even further back to his days as an undergraduate at Goucher College. During his junior year, Cohen became frustrated

The thoughts that Cohen had at Goucher are universal to all college campuses—including Homewood. With his experiences, Cohen has a simple message to Hopkins students: share your talents.

"Identify your own passion, and pursue it relentlessly. You have an obligation to share those passions and use your intellect to make the world a better place," Cohen said.

At Baltimore intersection, college student interns and academic mentors are matched up with underprivileged students to discuss the college process for people who do not have close relatives who



COURTESY OF ZEKE BERZOFF-COHEN
Baltimore youth learn about how to benefit their community.



COURTESY OF STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Many prizes were given out at Nolan's celebratory bingo night.

that a real marriage could occur between students in Baltimore and the city that hasn't quite occurred yet."

have gone through it. For more information, e-mail baltimoreintersection@gmail.com or visit: www.baltimoreintersection.com.

NEWS & FEATURES

COURTESY OF WWW.FANTASTICEGYPT.COM
Using his fellowship, Jordan-Davis was able to observe Egyptian artifacts in Europe and meeting with scholars.

Wilson fellow studies ancient Egypt

Project focuses on interpersonal relationships

By DEVIN ALESSIO
Staff Writer

Egyptology is the study of ancient Egyptian civilization, from art to literature to religion to history. A well-established academic field, western culture considers it a branch of archaeology. Such a specific topic is difficult to pursue, especially with a full Hopkins course load.

However, senior Veronica Jordan-Davis, a Public Health Studies and Near Eastern Studies double major from Princeton, N.J., was able to explore Egyptology and quench her curiosity as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. Jordan-Davis' Woodrow Wilson project examines the nature of ancient Egyptian relationships. In an email conversation with *The News-Letter*, she discusses her interest in her field, her travels, her interviews, the results of her project and her Hopkins experience.

The News-Letter (N-L): What is your Woodrow Wilson project? How did you become interested in this topic?

Jordan-Davis (VJD): I am looking at what can be determined about the nature of ancient Egyptian relationships from the artifacts they left behind in the archaeological record. The relationships I am examining range from familial ties to lovers, spouses and crushes to close friendships.

I have been interested in Egyptology for a decade, and was interested in this aspect of ancient Egypt since it has not been written about before. Despite the fact that the ancient Egyptians lived 3000 years ago,

much of their lives have similarities to our own — long friendships are valued, attractive young men and women were lusted over and significant others were cherished.

N-L: What was the most interesting or unexpected thing that happened to you while conducting your research?

VJD: Through my Woodrow Wilson grant, I was able to travel to Europe to view certain artifacts in person and to interview Egyptology scholars and curators.

I had previously traveled throughout Egypt before receiving the grant. The experience of traveling, often alone, enabled me to learn more and grow as a person.

N-L: Who has influenced or inspired you throughout conducting this research?

VJD: My mentor, Dr. Betsy Bryan has helped me tailor my research project. Also, Dr. David Silverman of UPenn also helped me focus on aspects of my project that had not been previously researched. I also greatly valued interviewing the scholars I met abroad who shared their thoughts on my thesis, including Dr. Baines of Oxford.

N-L: What was your biggest challenge throughout the project?

VJD: Not so much a challenge, but, due to scheduling issues, I was not able to meet with two Egyptologists I had wanted to.

N-L: Do you plan on further studying this topic?

VJD: Perhaps.

N-L: What do you do

other than the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and what else are you involved in on campus?

VJD: I founded a social justice organization in 2009 called Identity, and have been President of the group since then. I also tutor refugee children in Baltimore through the Refugee Action Project, and serve on its Executive Board.

I am also the Editor-in-Chief of Zeniada, the oldest literary arts magazine on campus.

N-L: What advice would you give to freshmen currently applying for the Woodrow Wilson?

VJD: I would recommend choosing a topic that is doable in the three years you would have in the program, and which will keep you inspired throughout that time.

N-L: What's the biggest thing you've learned about yourself as a result of this experience as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow?

VJD: I have learned (and perhaps become) more independent throughout the course of this project. Being entrusted to complete your own thesis and research coming into Hopkins gave me a lot of responsibility.

Also, traveling, communicating with others in different languages and interacting with the best scholars in Egyptology increased my confidence and independence.

The Woodrow Wilson Program gave me the opportunity to both challenge myself academically and also to expand my horizons through my travel experiences. It has added tremendously to my collegiate experience and my life goals.

Panel discusses MD museums, history

By NASH JENKINS
Senior Staff Writer

Krieger Hall served host to a panel discussion on the representation of history in the popular arena at Homewood this past Monday. The event was sponsored by Hopkins' interdisciplinary Program of Museums and Society.

Moderated by Avi Dechter, the director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the panel consisted of Kym Rice, who directs George Washington University's Museum Studies department, and Ken Yellis, a director at Project Development Systems, a Rhode Island-based private firm that facilitates the development of cultural exhibitions at museums across the United States.

Jennifer Kingsley, a lecturer in the Museums and Society program, introduced the trio by glossing their agenda and her thesis of her department.

"We are here to discuss means of cultivating knowledge and maintaining artifacts of culture," Kingsley said to the crowd in Krieger 304.

Dechter commenced the discussion by both rephrasing Kingsley's comment and providing a corollary to it.

"This is a discussion of history," he said. "And history [concerns] the telling of painful tales. It is imperative that we make peace with the past."

The audience, which consisted largely of freshmen and sophomores in Museums and Society's undergraduate seminars, interjected the discussion with both questions and anecdotes, citing personal experiences in exploring history via museum exhibitions.

Dechter, Rice and Yellis centered their presentation accordingly, discussing the imperative emotional fabric in such exhibitions at preeminent museums — the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, for example.

"[The Anne Frank House] is effective because it both conveys the story up close, with the actual residence of the Frank family, and also provides an objective interpretation of the events that transpired," Yellis explained.

Dechter applied such examples to a broader context.

"It comes down to emotional contact with the visitor. How do we establish it?" he asked, rhetorically.

— AVI DECKER,
DIRECTOR OF THE
JEWISH MUSEUM OF
MARYLAND

Rice stressed the importance of amplifying facts through personal stories and, in doing so, cultivating ideas.

"Narrative's a crucial tool," she said. "It connects the past to present day."

She went on to cap the panel's thesis by providing a metaphor for her responsibility, and that of Dechter and Yellis and all other members of the curatorial field, for preserving and interpreting history.

"Through what we do at museums, we're the 'village explainers,'" she said to laughter and appreciative nods. "It's our job to take what happened and give it to the world."

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Tahrawi reflects on path from refugee to professor

Arabic Professor discusses childhood struggles and inspirational travels

By CHRISTINA SOCIAS
Staff Writer

Since his childhood, Professor Khalil Tahrawi has dreamt of becoming a teacher. He always had plans to become an educator. But, at a young age, Tahrawi would discover that not all would go as planned for his future and the future of his Palestinian family.

In 1948, after the escalation of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Tahrawi and his family were forced to leave their southern Palestinian village and head to a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

"It was very difficult," Tahrawi said. "We lived part of our lives in tents then we moved to houses built by the United Nations."

Tahrawi recalled how his new home had no utilities, electricity or bathrooms, requiring him and his family to use public restrooms.

Living as a refugee in these tents and houses was difficult for Tahrawi.

"We suffered the most when it was too cold or too hot," Tahrawi said. "The tent had no protection whatsoever."

Living in these modest shelters, Tahrawi learned how quickly a refugee's fortune could turn. Tahrawi remembers the storm that literally blew his home — a simple tent — away.

"In one storm our tent is gone and have you to work really hard to get another one," Tahrawi said.

Despite his displacement and life as a refugee for sixteen years on account of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Tahrawi harbors no ill feelings toward the Israelis.

"I don't blame them (Israelis) because this is what they were told," Tahrawi said. "I do believe from my heart, there are honest Israelis who feel for the Palestinians and their situations."

For Tahrawi, the solution to the conflict is not the two-state solution proposed by President Obama and many other world leaders.

"I do believe the Israelis and the Palestinians should live in one state, and work together to make that place the place of everyone," Tahrawi said.

Tahrawi would live as a political refugee until he turned eighteen and began college at Cairo University in Egypt. While studying as an undergraduate in Cairo, Tahrawi's life changed drastically.

"I really enjoyed the experience of the undergraduate life," Tahrawi said. "It was the funniest [part] of my life; we always laugh and [were] happy."

At Cairo, Tahrawi was not yet interested in majoring in the Arabic language. He enjoyed history and the French language and would have majored in the two if he had not been discouraged with the market at the time.

Tahrawi also enjoyed his professors during his undergraduate years. He appreciated the bonds he formed with his peers, but he especially appreciated those bonds he formed with his professors in Egypt.

"My professors were some of the best professors in Egypt," Tahrawi said. "I feel with gratitude for them — I learned a lot from them."

In addition to his academics at Cairo, Tahrawi loved to travel. He visited many different places, but none would compare to the marvel of the United States.

"I felt like the United States itself is a world by itself," Tahrawi said. "I still needed to discover the U.S. more before thinking about going anywhere else."

Tahrawi would fall in love with the Hawaii and

"The teacher was very



COURTESY OF KHALIL TAHRAMI
Tahrawi in his college years, which he cites as a highlight of his life.

Florida. After his undergrad years, Tahrawi lived in the United States to earn his Masters and Doctorate degrees.

Tahrawi received his Masters in Arabic from Saint Xavier University in Illinois and his Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Tahrawi concentrated his thesis and studies on teaching the Arabic language to non-native speakers.

He would then go on to teach Arabic at a number of universities such as American University in Washington D.C. But for Tahrawi, none compared to Hopkins. He arrived at Homewood eight years ago and since then, believes Hopkins is unique compared to other institutions.

"Hopkins has a unique setting, which I did not find at other institutes I worked at," Tahrawi said.

"[What] I like most about Hopkins is the type of students they have. The students are very committed to their education, very diligent and very respectful at the same time."

For Tahrawi, teaching Hopkins undergraduates is a pleasure and an honor. He believes the relationship between a teacher and a student is truly an equal exchange.

"I feel like teaching is a continuation of socialization with the people," Tahrawi said. "Teaching is not only giving but take."

Part of this pride and honor Tahrawi has for his job as a professor stems from his culture. Arabic culture honors educators.

"The teacher was very

well respected in the community and the society," Tahrawi said. "You also feel like you are someone who is important."

In turn, Tahrawi recommends all undergraduates enjoy their time in college and think seriously about their futures.

"Live the experience of the undergraduate and truly enjoy it," Tahrawi said. "Because this is, I believe, the best time in the person's life."

Although Tahrawi's undergraduate years have come and gone, Tahrawi still enjoys life as an Arabic professor, working with complete beginners to advanced Arabic speakers. He is also a proud father and other activities out of the classroom.

For fun, Tahrawi enjoys gardening and working in his yard. He grows a multitude of vegetables and other produce.

"I like to do my garden," Tahrawi said. "I enjoy planting tomatoes and cucumber and watermelons."

Tahrawi, along with fellow Arabic Professor Fadel Abdallah, is currently producing a series of college level Arabic textbooks. The textbook series is titled: Windows in Arabic and its Culture and currently covers three levels of Arabic.

Tahrawi derives joy from many outlets: his gardens, the Arabic language and teaching. His experiences, both laborious and happy, have helped Tahrawi instill this appreciation and joy throughout the classroom in his Arabic students.

Outed CIA spy shares experience with Hopkins

WILSON, FROM A1
function in the CIA, Wilson described the unfolding of events that lead up to July 14, 2003, when her identity was exposed. Wilson described her confusion with President George W. Bush's State of the Union address in Jan. 2003, which stated that Britain had gained intelligence that Saddam Hussein sought large amounts of uranium from Africa.

"I just hope that the President and his close advisers around him know what they are doing because we are going to go to war," Wilson said.

The President's findings contradicted what Wilson and her team at the CIA had discovered.

"Based on intelligence I had seen, I did not understand how they could come to that conclusion, but I had to believe that the President and his advisers had access and an understanding of intelligence that was different from what I saw," Wilson said.

When the United States failed to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Wilson's husband decided to write an op-ed piece for *The New York Times* detailing his trip to Niger, as a request of the CIA, and his lack of findings concerned with the sale of uranium to Iraq. Wilson's husband suggested that the intelligence that led to the Iraq War had been manipulated.

Soon afterward, Wilson's identity was revealed in *The Washington Post*.

"I don't know if you've ever had that moment in your life, many of you are perhaps too young still, but you realize in that moment that everything you do is changed," Wilson said.

In 2006, Wilson realized it was time to resign from the CIA. In that same year, Wilson and her husband decided to file a civil suit against Vice President Dick Cheney, Lewis Libby, Karl Rove, Richard Armitage and others.

The decision to file a civil suit was challenging for Wilson.

"When we first discussed this possibility of doing a civil suit, I wanted nothing to do with it," Wilson said.

"All I could see was it would be financially ruinous, and it would just be more pain protracted over time, and I just wanted to make it all go away."

Ultimately, Wilson de-

cided to take action for three reasons: to get out the facts, to hold public officials accountable and to ensure that what happened to her never happens to anyone else.

"How did it come to this?" Wilson said. "How did it come to an administration outing one of their own CIA officers who served her country well and loyally, working on what they had said to be our number one national security issue."

Although officials claimed that the Wilsons were not justified in their decision to sue, Wilson is proud that she was able to hold her government accountable and make the truth known.

"Despite what happened, we are not bitter. We believe deeply in this country, deeply in its institutions that help make it run," Wilson said.

Wilson ended her speech by encouraging students to consider public service.

"The problems are bigger and badder than ever, and we need the best and the brightest," Wilson said.

Currently, Wilson lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with her husband and children. She remains active in the counter-proliferation movement. Wilson spread shared her expertise on counter-proliferation in the critically acclaimed documentary *Countdown to Zero*.

Wilson's speech was attended by a large and lively audience. Students sympathized with Wilson and her desire to persevere and build a new life.

"I found Wilson to be an interesting and engaging speaker. I enjoyed hearing her story and her efforts to thwart terrorism," sophomore Kirsten Gausch said. "I am thankful for FAS for holding the symposium and bringing in a diverse range of speakers."

Jillian Martynec, Executive Director of FAS, believed last night's event was one of the most successful events that FAS has hosted.

"Not only was her speech enlightening, but the attention she gave in the question and answer section and the accessibility she gave in the meet and greet session afterwards was unparalleled," Martynec told *The News-Letter* in a phone interview. "She offered a level of accessibility and poise and presented herself in such an interesting way. It's something that I have not seen in all of my years at Hopkins."

Activities and panel raise awareness about security issues for students

SECURITY, FROM A1

focuses more on campus improvement projects and ways to get students more involved on campus," Trenton said. "We work with Campus Safety and Security to set up programs and to coordinate between students and be that link between security and the student body."

Trenton envisioned Security Week as a way for students to get more involved and knowledgeable about what Security does on campus. He feels that students generally do not know a lot about Security past the Hop Copps and the blue lights.

"The idea behind Security Week was, there's all these really great programs that Security offers and there's all these great tips that they're able to give to students, but there's no one solidified time when everyone can learn all these great things and register for all these programs."

During Security Week, students are able to learn about programs such as the Neighborhood Walks, the housing safety inspections and the crime watch programs. At each event, stu-

dents are able to register for as many programs as they want to.

"There's all these great programs that we really wanted to advertise, and we couldn't find a good way to push these programs out there and get people involved," Trenton said. "When students go to these events, security becomes a little less hazy."

On Monday, students were able to drive a golf cart on the Freshman Quad with impaired vision courtesy of "beer goggles." Sexual Assault Response Unit (SARU) hosted a Tuesday night panel and Hopkins Emergency Response Organization (HERU) presented a disaster situation.

Today will offer a self-defense showcase on the Freshman Quad, and the week culminates on Friday afternoon with a security game show hosted by Carrie Bennett, the "Shush" Lady, on the Gilman Quad. Those who attend the events receive raffle tickets for Friday's prizes.

Tuesday's SARU panel, a yearly event, offered a variety of resources from on and off-campus speakers.

"Our panel is mainly to provide students with know-how of the resources for them on and off-campus when it comes to cases of sexual assault," Linda Song, co-president of SARU, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. She was positive at the panel's inclusion in security week.

Jennifer Naber, Assistant Director of Res Life, spoke about giving students information and access as well Res Life staff's recent sexual assault training. Alison Boyle of the Office of Institutional Equity talked about the process by which students can lodge formal complaints.

"It's a complaint process that can coexist with a police investigation, but we're internal to the university," Boyle said.

Lieutenant Mark Long of Campus Safety and Security spoke about Security's involvement within the university, as Boyle referenced, and also their collaboration with Baltimore resources.

"We exhaust all links to the best of our ability," Long said in reference to the investigation aspect of sexual assault or harassment cases.

Dr. Alan Joffe, Executive Director of Health & Wellness, similarly echoed the interdepartmental coordination.

The SARU panel also featured non-affiliate speakers such as Debra Holbrook, a forensic nurse from Mercy Medical Center. She spoke about the forensic procedures they offer to victims, reiterating a common topic of the evening — the victim's choice about how to proceed.

Forensic evidence can be held for a year if the victim does not desire police involvement at the present time, allowing one to change his or her mind in the future.

Two members from the Baltimore Police Sexual Assault Unit were also present. Lieutenant Chris Jones mentioned recent changes in their response policies which limit the number of times that a victim has to retell his or her story.

"Indirectly we were trying to do the right thing, but hurting the victim," Jones said.

Jones sits on a sexual assault response team panel with Holbrook, exemplifying the continual efforts to

revise the methods behind sexual assault investigation.

"It can be revictimizing to tell your story to a whole group of people," Holbrook explained.

Junior Aishwarya Rajagopalan thinks that the Security Week events were very informative.

"Panels like the SARUs are both informative and necessary for students on this campus," Rajagopalan said. "Though we are fortunate to be on a campus with excellent security, once we graduate and move away, this may not be the case."

Trenton also sees Security Week as a way to help students remember vital safety tips. They are especially focusing on pedestrian safety, due to the recent accidents.

"That's one thing that we're trying to attain out of Security Week is raising awareness about crossing the street and looking both ways. For instance, we're going to be getting some signs up in the next couple of days," he said. "They'll be fun, quirky signs saying look both ways, one of them's going to have giant eyeballs. It's kind of silly but

it gets their attention. It's issues like this, which I think are the most important ones that SGA should be looking at."

Executive Director of Campus Safety & Security Edmund Skrodski feels that Security Week is important especially because Hopkins is located in a city. He wants students to know as much information as possible in order to keep themselves safe.

"The University is located in the heart of a major urban area that has all of the security concerns and inherent risks of any large city. When new students arrive on campus and throughout their first year they are given a tremendous amount of information to absorb," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Security Week disseminates the information needed to allow students to play an active role in their own personal safety. Becoming educated about the risks inherent in this environment and the resources available to reduce those risks is a key component in increasing one's personal safety. It is a shared responsibility."

Holi festival brings Hindu tradition to Hopkins community

HOLI, FROM A1

participated in at home.

"Holi is one of my favorite holidays because it brings back all the fun memories from when I was a kid," Sakamuri said. "Throwing colors and dancing is a great way to get everybody together and it's also great stress relief."

Sophomore Nikhil Gupta, a member of the Hindu Students Council, participated in Holi festivities for the first time.

"I thought Holi was awesome," he said. "It's great to see the Indian community coming together to celebrate its heritage. It definitely lived up to all my expectations!"

For most, the best part was the flinging of colored powder. The chasing, dancing and overall enjoyment served as a study break for many students.

Nikhil Gupta spoke fondly of the excitement in attacking other students with color.

"People got so into it.

Whenever they brought out more color, there was a mad dash to see who could get to it first. In college, everyone loves a dance party, so when you add in colored powder, it's sure to be a hit," he said.

Sophomore Nikita Gupta found energy as she played with the colors. She happily recounted the fun in dancing in such chaos.

"I love dancing afterwards and just being totally crazy and wild, if only for a few hours it's a great stress release," she said.

However, Holi does not exist for mere enjoyment. A major component of the holiday is the unification of all people into one, fun-loving, group. This sense of community and absolution of hatred welcomes the new season with joy, in hopes of prosperity and happiness.

Graduate student Pranav Joshi, project co-ordinator with AIDJHU, emphasized this aspect of Holi.

"It really brings together people from different social structures, castes, genders, etc. You can get everybody together, and there's no barriers. It's really the good message of good will and togetherness," Joshi said.

This positive attitude enticed people to join in the fun. The inclusivity and the sheer fun brought out many Hopkins students.

Nikhil Gupta echoed Joshi's sentiment.

"Holi is great because it brings together people of different cultures. It was awesome to see my non-Indian friends get excited about an event that means so much to me," he said.

This dissolution of cultural, heritage and social barriers is a vital part of the holiday.

Furthermore, these students appreciated the awareness increase from the celebration.

Sheila Razdan, another member of the Hindu Students Council, talked about the importance of Indian presence on the Hopkins campus.

"Celebrating Holi at Hopkins is always really fun," Razdan said. "It's great to celebrate and have fun in the nice weather, plus it's a great way to increase awareness of the holiday within the Hopkins community. It's one of my favorite events of the year."

Similarly, Nikhil Gupta loved the spirit of the holiday — the inclusivity and the knowledge spread as a result.

"To me Holi bears so much symbolism," he said, "We celebrate the spring



COURTESY OF JOSE RIVERA

The coming of spring is celebrated in the cultural festivities of Holi, a holiday that bears many religious stories.

by throwing colors everywhere. More importantly, we get to spread the color of our Indian culture."

Finally, the celebration of Holi benefited AIDJHU.

The organization seeks to increase awareness about India's development issues and raise funds for approved grassroots organizations, such as NGOs, according to Joshi. The proceeds from Holi increased funds, and the event itself increased awareness about Indian culture. Volunteers from the group were able to handout booklets, brochures and get in touch with potential new volunteers.

"Of course, our organization benefited," Joshi said, "More Hopkins students can get involved, help India and receive in-

ternships now. But most importantly, people were able to get together, have fun and forget everything else."

The festival finds its roots in Hindu stories and teachings. Throughout India, the story behind Holi varies with the region.

Joshi and Nikita Gupta cited the story of a young man named Prahlada, where Holi finds its roots.

The story tells of King Hiranyakashipu, an infallible king hungry for power. His son Prahlada was a devotee of Lord Vishnu, one of the three main Hindu gods, united in Brahma. However,

King Hiranyakashipu was

jealous of the attention given to Lord Vishnu, and thus formed a plan to kill his son. Holika, the king's sister, lured Prahlada into a pyre to burn him, herself immune to the fire. However, the plan backfired and Holika was destroyed. Though this story is the most common, the festival of colors has transgressed into a more cultural holiday.

"There are many religious stories behind holi, such as the myth of King Hiranyakashipu, but not it's a cultural event," Joshi said. "It is the celebration of the coming of spring and harvest time. It's really just a time to rejoice."



COURTESY OF JOSE RIVERA

Hopkins came alive with color and students lined the beach to participate.

Acceptance rate lowest in Hopkins' history

ADMISSIONS, FROM A1

will seek need-based financial aid. In what Conley described as an "interesting coincidence," the group of admitted students is nearly evenly split between men and women.

Hopkins has observed a 130 percent increase in application totals since 2002.

"Hopkins has exceeded the norm," Conley said. "We're much more popular than we were a decade ago, and in consequence, our student body is stronger."

He attributes this change to a shift in the overall climate of the University — a deliberate effort by administrators to transform Hopkins from an institution defined by lab coats and bare academic rigor to a vibrant community for scholastic and cultural discovery.

"We're the first research university in the

United States, yes, but we had a vision that Hopkins could be more," he said. "There was a cultural undertow before, say, 2002 cast Hopkins as coldly academic."

He refers to the increasingly antiquated notion of Hopkins as an "pre-med factory," a reputation that paled both the university's top-ranked programs in the humanities and social sciences and its dedication to providing a more holistic undergraduate experience.

He, however, asserts that the university has hardly become "less rigorous" — exemplified by the statistics of the admitted Class of 2016.

Hopkins' popularity among applicants is evident in the 545 members of the Class of 2016 admitted through the Early Decision process, which enables those students for whom

Hopkins is a distinct first choice university to submit a binding application in the fall. These members comprise 43 percent of the Class of 2016.

The first-choice appeal of Hopkins has increased significantly," Conley said.

The admissions decisions emerge from a year that proved largely transitional for those in Mason Hall. In January, former Director of Undergraduate Admissions John F. Latting left for an administrative position at Emory University in Atlanta after 10 years at Hopkins. Mark E. Butt, a longtime admissions officer for application-heavy states Delaware and New Jersey, left this past summer to work as a college counselor for a private high school in Florida.

Such changes, however, did not affect this year's admissions process.

The applicants faced the greatest challenges, who, after submitting their applications on January 1, had little to do but wait in the face of what would prove to be the hardest year yet to receive an affirmative decision.

Students splashed each other with colored powder in Holi festival.

COURTESY OF PRATIK SARKAR

Univ. increases cost of undergrad tuition

TUITION, FROM A1

Dennis O'Shea, Director of Media Relations at Hopkins, wrote in an email to The News-Letter.

"But as successful as we have been in doing that, costs still do

increase somewhat, and

salaries, benefits, energy

bills and other expenses

must be paid. We will con-

tinute to do what we can

to restrain costs and to re-

strain tuition. But we will

not compromise on aca-

demic quality. We will of-

fer an excellent education

to our students, no matter

what."

Hopkins also an-

nounced an increase in its

financial aid budget for

the new academic year,

which will rise by 5.9 per-

cent, to \$71.6 million. The

strength of the financial

aid budget has led to a

larger grant for incoming

freshmen for the 2012-

2013 year. The average

grant for an incoming

freshman is anticipated to

be approximately \$35,000,

compared to \$32,726 this

year. Subtracting this

grant from the \$60,670

total, the average cost for

an incoming freshman

on financial aid would be

approximately \$25,670,

which is more than \$2,000

less than this academic

year.

Although the announce-

ment primarily focuses on

aid for incoming freshmen,

increased resources in fi-

nancial aid is intended to

benefit the entire Univer-

sity community.

"Increasing our finan-

cial aid resources is an

extremely important uni-

versity priority," Sarah

Steinberg, Vice Provost

for Student Affairs, wrote

in an email to The News-

Letter. "This is true for

our incoming freshmen

and for our current stu-

dents. Current students

are asked to file financial

aid forms each year and

we do our best to respond

to changes in family sit-

uations as well as tuition

increases and housing

and dining increases. Our

fundraising for financial

aid is intended to assist

all students."

While students' tuition

payments cover salaries,

electric bills and other

campus expenses, other

components of the Uni-

versity experience are ac-

counted for through other

revenue sources. This in-

cludes the Parents Fund,

supported by donations

from current and former

parents and grandparents.

The Parents Fund's

contributions make pro-

grams such as Freshman

Convocation, Lighting of

the Quads, Spring Fair

and Fall Fest possible.

"Tuition remains our

primary revenue source,

though we are also de-

pendent on the generosity

of our donors to help us

fund many important

priorities — including

our exceptionally impor-

tant priority of enhanc-

reasons
to be
pretty

APRIL 8:00 PM
6th 8th 12th 14th

FAT
PIG

APRIL 8:00 PM
5th 7th 13th 15th

plays by

Where will **z man** be next?

JHU vs Maryland

Saturday, April 14th

Begins at 6:00pm

And a \$200 gift card
giveaway at
[searchbettertogether.com!](http://searchbettertogether.com)



www.zaahah.com

www.searchbettertogether.com



PRISM

SECOND ANNUAL INTER-HOPKINS
LGBT BALL

FRIDAY APRIL 13TH
GLASS PAVILION
HOMEWOOD CAMPUS

8^{PM} TO 11^{PM}

HOPKINS ID REQUIRED FOR ENTRY
ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE
MUST BE 21+ TO DRINK

SEMI FORMAL ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
DSAGA, THE HOPKINS LGBT GRAD STUDENT GROUP,
THE GERTRUDE STEIN SOCIETY, & THE PEABODY GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

Summer Housing 2012

Taking summer classes...

doing an internship or research?

The Wolman Housing Office offers summer housing to full-time Hopkins undergraduate students and visiting students who are affiliated with JHU over the summer!

When: Sunday May 27, 2012 thru Saturday, August 4, 2012

Where: Wolman Hall West - 5th, 6th, and 7th floors

How to apply: Visit www.jhu.edu/hds
and look for SUMMER HOUSING under Housing News

Summer meal plans are also available!!!

Space is limited, so apply early!

For more information please call: 410-516-7960

Opening Day

APRIL 2012

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Friday, April 6
3 PM - 9 PM
Nolan's Student Lounge

Orioles

vs. Minnesota Twins 3:00 PM

GAME ON BIG SCREEN

PRIZES AND RAFFLES

GAMES TRIVIA CONTESTS

Grand Prize!
Cal Ripken Jr.
Autographed
Photo

MENU

HOT DOGS
PEANUTS & CRACKER JACKS
BASEBALL HELMET CUP
ICE CREAM
SOFT PRETZELS
& MORE!

Take Me Out To The Ballgame...with Nolan's Student Lounge! Come out and celebrate Baseball's Opening Day! (All afternoon, Friday April 6, 3 PM - 9 PM)

Watch the Baltimore Orioles battle the Minnesota Twins on the big screen, beginning at 3 PM! • We'll be giving away a ton of prizes, including Orioles caps, shirts, bobbleheads, magnetic calendars, and other baseball gear! • As a grand prize, we will be giving away a Cal Ripken Jr. autographed photo, donated by Ironclad Authentic! • Take advantage of our special modified baseball themed menu, including all of your ballpark favorites such as hot dogs, peanuts, cracker jacks, baseball helmet cup ice cream, and soft pretzels! • Learn about many of the nearby minor league teams and find out how you can get tickets to attend a game! • Put your baseball knowledge to the test in our trivia contests! • Play in fun challenging games and activities, including everyone's favorite - a dizzy bat spin race! • Win gear from the MLB Fan Cave and learn about cave dweller and former Hopkins alum Gordon Mack '10!

We know
you've always
wanted to
know what's in
this building.



Get involved in
News-Letter to
find out.

E-mail
chiefs@jhunewsletter.com to
learn more.

HIP HOP

The next generation of COLUMNS is here. This is the place for restaurants, fashion, fitness, cooking, relationships, lifestyle and trends

Tweets mark an end to March Madness and beginning of Game of Thrones



The Colbert Report @ColbertReport

Pink slime is nothing more than good old beef mixed with some not-so-good older beef. on.cc.com/HE4hD0

12h

For the past couple of weeks, the food industry has been under immense scrutiny regarding this "Pink Slime" debacle. This "Pink Slime", or some kind of red meat filler, has been showing up everywhere: the news, talk shows, and even *The Colbert Report* earlier this week. It's clear from watching that he and his writers had fun with this one.



Stephen Toulouse @Stepto

I still think "Kinect Game of Thrones: Joffrey slap" would sell millions.

17h

Game of Thrones is back! Thank you HBO; after cancelling the great *How to Make it in America* series, this is the least you can do. The show started off with a bang on Sunday night and the season is shaping up to be even better than the first (which has some big shoes to fill). This is a great tweet about the despicable King Joffrey. Think your boss, professor, etc. is bad, watch Joffrey rule for five minutes and I'm sure you'll change your mind.



Tom Colicchio @tomcolicchio

Congratulations to John Calapari and Kentucky on a great season.

11h

The celebrity chef wasted no time in cooking up a congratulatory tweet to Coach John Calapari and his dominant Kentucky basketball team. After getting off to a strong start, the NCAA championship game seemed like it was shaping up to be a blowout. However, Kansas started to stage a comeback. But it was too little too late as Kentucky finished strong to win the title.



Dr. Sanjay Gupta @sanjayguptaCNN

spent last week shooting pilot #ChelseaGeneral, based on book #MondayMorninas. back in the real OR today - and happy to be here!

26 Mar

Dr. Sanjay Gupta has been receiving a lot of notoriety lately regarding his new fictional novel, *Monday Mornings*. Apparently they have also began filming a television series based on the book. I am greatly looking forward to reading the book (as well as seeing the show). It will be interesting to hear Dr. Gupta thoughts in another medium besides CNN.

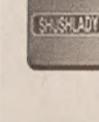


JKlesch @JKlesch

Wait so I can say whatever I want and say april fools at the end and I won't get in trouble?

1 Apr

It was also April Fools day this past week. I've seen good jokes, bad jokes, and just about everything in between. A lot of people really took to Twitter and Facebook status updates to play pranks, which was pretty funny at times. JKlesch makes a good point with this one in wondering where the line gets drawn.



Carrie Bennett @ShushLady

Why Hopkins? Because once a Blue Jay, always a Blue Jay! Go Hop! youtube.com/watch?feature=...

Share More info

Why Johns Hopkins?

Why Johns Hopkins?

The new admissions video for incoming students popped up this week. After watching, I was actually pretty impressed. There are certainly things that I would change around, but for the most part, it was very well done and the production quality was at a very high quality. Here Hopkins' Shush Lady, Carrie Bennett seems proud of the video.

Johns Hopkins Confessions

http://jhuconfessions.com/

"Caring about academics" is the ultimate compliment

A couple days ago, I received one of the best compliments I have heard in quite a while. I was chatting with my math advisor about my course of action for the rest of my time here. After discussion about graduate classes, TA opportunities, and so on, I made some comment expressing my concern about getting into the BA/MA program, to which my advisor replied, "Don't worry, I can tell you're one of us."

I feel like I belong in the math department. I was looking over the list of grads in pure math and it seemed that the BA/MA is not populated by my demographic. So I have to show that I'm serious. It's just like at the comic con conventions: you have to prove that as a fanboy/ fangirl, you are just as dedicated as cosplayers.

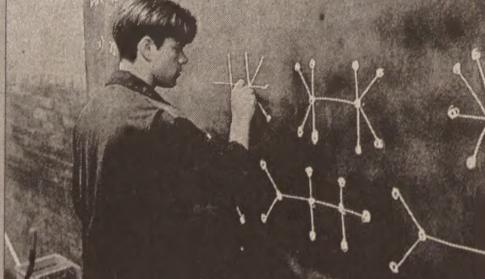
I've wanted to study mathematics professionally since the seventh grade when I got into a blistering fight with my teacher. She

got fairly ugly. She told me that I didn't know what I was talking about because I was young and sent me across the hall. Needless to say, I quit the math team. But since that day, it became incredibly important that I learn as much math as I could, partly in order to show her that I knew what I was talking about. What was really cool was that

when I went back to visit my middle school, she seemed to have forgotten about the whole incident. I told her that I was studying math and she got super excited. She then asked me to tutor some students and we now chat occasionally. I know that a lot of people are friends with their old teachers and can discuss all sorts of life stuff with them, but my favorite teachers are

those that I have academic conversations with; simply because that's all we want to talk about.

You know what it means to be a b.a.m.? Being A Mathematics Fanatic. (Okay, okay, I just made that up, but it sounded cool in my head. Looks stupid on paper, but eh, totally worth it.)



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEZONE.COM

Matt Damon as a math whiz in the movie *Good Will Hunting*.

My urban upbringing was dancing inside my head to make me curse in joy, but I refrained at the time (although it is still ringing, and with a proper accent). There are very few pleasures greater than or equal to that of when someone can see how passionate you are. It's sometimes hard to

was coach of the math team I was on, and we generally got on well until one day we argued over the mathematical meaning of "or." It

JHU Confessions

a space reserved for your anonymous unfiltered thoughts about Hopkins

with my high school math teachers. It's pretty sweet.

Anyhow, back to what I tried to start on. I'm feeling pretty good after being told by a faculty member that I am one of "them." It means that someone can see that

I adore what I do and am

more interested

in learning tons of new things than how my GPA looks; I've been in honors courses

that have punched me in the face, but goodness, the things I've proved!

People think that the

nicest things to say about

me are, "You're cute!" or

"You're really smart!" You

know what I'm actually a

sucker for? Tell me that you

admire my excitement about

non-Euclidean geometry

(shameless plug: this class is

fantastic and requires only

basic high school geometry).

Compliments don't have to

be romantic; they're just an

easy way to express, "Wow,

you're a b.a.m."

You know what it

means to be a b.a.m.?

Being A Mathematics Fanatic.

(Okay, okay, I just made

that up, but it sounded cool

in my head. Looks stupid

on paper, but eh, totally

worth it.)

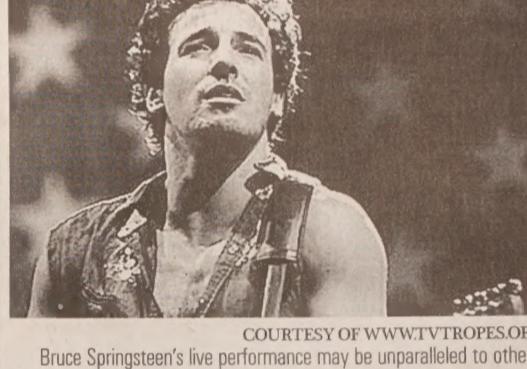


Ryan Kahn

Tweets of the Week

This weekly column features some of the top posts around the Twitter realm that deal with the week's top stories in sports, politics, pop culture and all things news.

Following the best performer, The Boss



COURTESY OF WWW.TVTROPES.ORG

Bruce Springsteen's live performance may be unparalleled to others.

On Sunday night, I attended a Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band concert in DC. I have seen "The Boss" multiple times, including my first concert ever (full disclosure: my father worked on multiple Springsteen tours and has friends with ticket hook ups). In 2009, I caught the Baltimore show: 3 hrs 20 minutes and 35 songs. No one does that, no one. And the guy was 59 years old at the time!

His latest release, *Wrecking Ball*, has garnered mixed reviews from both the media and his fans. It is a mixture of the song-writing prowess so apparent in his early work, and caring for your fellow man and woman. That said, the cheering following the "Jack of All Trades" lyric, "up on Bunker's Hill, the party's still goin' strong. If I had a gun, I'd find the bastards and shoot 'em on sight" was a bit disconcerting. But hey, I guess many Americans really can relate to such a feeling.

For me, however, the message has always been the same: work hard, love hard, sing loud. The songs speak to deep parts of the soul, roiling buried emotions and forcing them to the fore. This is that much more evident live. I balled my fists (unintentionally), let out whoops of anger and joy and even cried (as I always do) during the first verse of "Thunder Road." If only more musicians had the power, will and skill to affect their audience in such a way. Or, perhaps a better formulation: if only more people would channel their energy into enacting positive changes on the material and emotional world. The choice is yours folks. Let's follow The Boss.



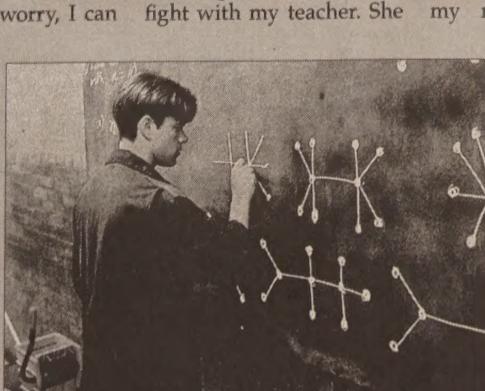
Voice from the Underground

This column engages political, cultural and philosophical issues through provocative and occasionally radical argument.

His message this time around is fairly straightforward on the surface: it's not about 99% v. the 1%, it's about doing the right thing for your fellow man and woman. That said, the cheering following the "Jack of All Trades" lyric, "up on Bunker's Hill, the party's still goin' strong. If I had a gun, I'd find the bastards and shoot 'em on sight" was a bit disconcerting. But hey, I guess many Americans really can relate to such a feeling.

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Springsteen has never been recognized as the best musician or singer around. His pull comes from his power and endless energy. Watching him perform puts all other bands in perspective: as one who has attended literally hundreds of shows,



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEZONE.COM

Matt Damon as a math whiz in the movie *Good Will Hunting*.

was coach of the math team I was on, and we generally got on well until one day we argued over the mathematical meaning of "or." It

is those that I have academic conversations with; simply because that's all we want to talk about.

Seriously, I geek out

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, rants, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

A second remembering of Sonic Youth today

Goo (1990) / Dirty (1992) / Experimental Jet Set, Trash and No Star (1994) / Washing Machine (1995)

With all of the success and acclaim from Daydream Nation and the hit song, "Teen Age Riot", Sonic Youth signed to a major label: Geffen Records. This is the main source of controversy concerning the band. Signing to a major label was seen as career suicide to many within the indie music community feeling that once a band did that, they would lose their artistic independence and succumb to the "capitalistic" desires of the major label.

However, I believe they really did not lose their artistic independence at all. Based on the early alternative rock sound of "Daydream Nation", the direction they were heading into was apparent and could be heard within Goo and Dirty. Both are probably their most accessible albums, with the first probably being their most accessible due to the hit single, "Kool Thing". The structure of each song in general is a bit more ordered. This is especially seen in "Dirty", which was produced by Butch Vig, the famous producer who worked with Nirvana on Nevermind in 1991. Because of this, this album generally has more of a "grunge" sound than Goo, but it is fairly subtle.

Experimental Jet Set, Trash and No Star and Washing Machine represent Sonic Youth's even more experimental alternative phase. There are song structures present, however, the main focus shifts back to dissonance and noise, especially with Washing Machine, which has one song called "Panty Lines", which is entirely composed of diminished chords. Washing Machine is more abrasive in sound compared to Jet Set, with more riffs based on diminished chords and progressions, but Jet Set has more experimentation when it

comes to noise in general.

A Thousand Leaves (1998) / NYC Ghost & Flowers (2000)

These two albums mark Sonic Youth's noise ballad phase, with NYC Ghosts & Flowers being their more avant-garde sounding album. Both are greatly influenced by beat poetry.

A Thousand Leaves maintains an alternative sound, mellow at times, mixed in with some bridges and outros that consist of noise jams and just plain noise, the best example of this being the single "Sunday". Some songs solely just focus on ambience and environment made with the sounds of the guitars, like "Snare, Girl".

This album also marks the first use of a C Major 9 tuning, which give the guitars a more bass heavy sound.

In 1999, while on tour, all their gear—their prepared and uniquely tuned guitars, pedals, and amps—were stolen. Despite the great loss, Sonic Youth still started from scratch and released NYC Ghost & Flowers in 2000. This greatly explains the departure from their alternative sound from their last few LP's. It is the most experimental album they ever released since their first few LP's. The extensive use of prepared guitars that were last seen in Bad Moon Rising returns and the majority of the album uses this bizarre F Major add flat 9 tuning that has a very unusual sound.

These are not the band's most accessible albums. Again, just like with the first few albums, these albums do not generally come to mind when giving Sonic Youth recommendations due to the fairly experimental na-

ture of the albums.

Murray Street (2002) / Sonic Nurse (2004)

After their return to experimentation with the noise ballads of A Thousand Leaves and the avant-garde noise of NYC Ghosts & Flowers, Sonic Youth entered an indie jam/instrumental phase. This was seen a bit in A Thousand Leaves and NYC Ghosts & Flowers, but was further developed and greatly improved with these two next albums. The majority of these songs feature long instrumental parts. Instead of just trying to achieve dissonance and noise, Sonic Youth crafted these m e l o d i c multi-guitar arrangements, interchanging seamlessly between mellowness and aggression.

Such arrangements were featured more prominently on Sonic Nurse. Also, with the addition of Jim O'Rourke on bass and guitar, almost all the songs on these albums featured three guitars, increasing their capabilities to further sculpt their sonic landscapes. Although they did start using three guitars in songs since Washing Machine, they did not play bass in those songs, which can add to a song.

All in all, both albums are arguably two of the best albums they have released in the 2000's. Even with a 20 year career under their belts, Sonic Youth still cover a wide range of sounds with Murray Street and Sonic Nurse, including things that they had not done before—especially those aforementioned instrumental guitar arrangements. Murray Street just edges out Sonic Nurse due to the better song transitioning, but that is just nit picking on my part.



Alex Hurowitz
Tonespoon

A history and analysis on the current state of music

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Recommended

Tracks

"The Burning Spear" -

Sonic Youth

"She's in A) Bad Mood"

- Confusion is Sex

"Inhuman" - Confusion

is Sex

"World Looks Red" -

Confusion is Sex

"Kill Yr. Idols" - Confusion is Sex (on the Reisue)

"Brave Men Run (In

My Family)" - Bad Moon

Rising

"Death Valley '69" - Bad

Moon Rising

"Tom Violence" - EVOL

Shadow of a Doubt -

EVOL

"In The Mind Of The

Bourgeois Reader" - Experimental Jet Set, Trash and

No Star

"Sweet Shine" - Experimental Jet Set, Trash and No

Star

"Becuz" - Washing

Machine

"Saucer-Like" - Washing

Machine

"Skip Tracer" - Washing

Machine

"Diamond Sea" - Wash-

ing Machine

"Sunday" - Wash-

ing Machine

"Wildflower Soul" -

Washing Machine

"Hoarfrost" - Washing

Machine

"Free City Rhymes" -

NYC Ghost & Flowers

"Renegade Princess" -

NYC Ghost & Flowers

"The Empty Page" -

Murray Street

"Disconnection Notice" -

Murray Street

"Rain on Tin" - Murray

Street

"Radical Adults Lick

Godhead Style" - Murray

Street

"Sympathy For The

Strawberry" - Murray Street

"Pattern Recognition" -

Sonic Nurse

"The Dripping Dream" -

Sonic Nurse

Stones - Sonic Nurse

"New Hampshire" -

Sonic Nurse

"Paper Cup Exit" - Sonic

Nurse

Overheard at Hopkins: "I bite my sister all the time"

Y eah, I don't even know what this means. I think I cried when I heard this quote because it was so entirely bizarre. Do you bite your siblings? I have one older sister and I can tell you for a fact that I have never ever had the desire to bite her. I don't know about you, but I generally reserve the act of biting for things that are dead and processed like steamed broccoli or writing utensils.

Bit ing

is such a

primal

behavior.

In the animal

kingdom,

biting can

signify ag-

gression,

affection,

hunger,

boredom,

com mu-

nication,

frustra-

tion...yea,

a lot of

emotions.

My dog

used to bite

the wooden

legs of our

piano when her teeth were

growing in. That emotion

is called "teething". Hu-

man babies could probably

empathize.

Speaking of babies,

let's examine this from

a Freudian perspective.

Freud coined five stages

of psychosexual develop-

ment where a child fixates

on deriving pleasure from

various sources until they

reach puberty.

The first stage is the Oral

Stage and occurs when a

baby is breastfeeding.

According to Freud, babies

who are not breastfed

enough develop an Oral

Personality where they are

more likely to smoke, eat,

chew things, etc., later on

in life (no, I am not mak-

ing this up).

Hm. Okay, I

think that's enough Freud

for now.

I performed a com-

plex science experiment

the other day in the MSE



Sophia Gauthier

So They Say

This is a reaction column to the bizarre college student quotes that sometimes make it past our mental filter, so stay witty! (Seriously, I might run out of ideas.)

glucose. People study for long periods of time. Compound this by the fact that the guards are instructed to confiscate any piece of visible edible material and people start to get hungry!

My second theory is stress. The amount of studying and the lack of food at the library can produce enough stress to fuel a small war, which explains why we have guards. People have no choice but to start thinking of socially acceptable ways to burn stress. Throwing things is out of the question and the rest of our body is too busy sitting so we turn to our teeth. And with the exception of the zombies that emerge from D level at 3am, we can't just go around biting people.

Unless they're your sis-

ter.

weather. A minute of pain now versus a summer of confidence is no debate topic. At shoulder-length width, hold your arms straight out, and stand with your legs apart and bend down to a squat position 90 degrees at the knees. From this position, perform a vertical jump and raise both arms straight up and land back in the squat position with arms straight out. Just a few of these at the end of your cardio circuit can be bring excruciating pain to your legs so make sure you are

mentally prepared before physical engaging.

With enough time and repetition, these workouts will give you sore legs, an after-burn that will strip away fat given enough time and repetition. As I have noticed, a lot more people have been performing burpees and mountain-climbers since Nov. They are in fact, time-efficient cardio circuits that

I too perform and believe

build functionally fit individuals.

So start today and put

yourself on the gradual

path to success because

yesterday, you said, "to-

morrow."

Jump Rope

Jump rope can be like running in place, a process that is extremely tedious and uninspiring. To see your time go by easier, you may want to include alternating your feet and not just jump with both of them together each time. Additionally, you can jump on one leg at a time and go to 10 each, crisscrossing, jumping backwards, doing high knees every step, and to kick some extra lactic acid into your legs,

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorial

Tuition hikes have not been explained

On Friday, the University announced its annual tuition increase. Next year's tuition will rise by 3.9 percent, bringing the price to attend Hopkins up \$1,650 to \$43,930. As the press release made clear, this is the fourth consecutive year that the tuition increase has remained below four percent.

This page applauds efforts to keep tuition increases as low as possible and appreciates President Daniels's sustained emphasis on financial aid, as the press release also states that financial aid will grow. We can all agree that making a Hopkins education more accessible to all students who deserve it, regardless of financial constraints, should be a top priority.

However, this page would like to see a more detailed breakdown of how tuition increases are determined and how specifically those funds are allocated.

It is clear that the increases each year cannot be fully explained by inflation rates. According to usinflationcalculator.com, the infla-

tion rate for 2012 is projected to be only 2.9 percent – a full percentage point lower than the tuition hike. While this discrepancy is relatively small, this hasn't been the case in previous years.

The same is true of allocations from tuition money to financial aid and other projects. Rather than simply celebrating efforts to maintain tuition hikes at a certain point, the University should provide students with greater insight into its financial planning and how their money is working for them.

If the administration informed us that the 3.9 percent tuition hike is necessary to augment research in a vital field here on campus, the hike would be much more palatable. But trying to spin an increase to make it look entirely positive is not helpful. Instead of trying to "sell" the tuition hikes to students by sugarcoating them as the lowest increase since the 1970s, press releases and other information should clearly explain why we're paying more.

Nathalia Gibbs



LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be e-mailed to chiefs@jhunewsletter.com for inclusion in a Thursday issue. All letters received become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include contact information and cannot be anonymous. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

Security week? No, Security Week!

This week, Campus Safety & Security held its first annual Security Week, which aims to familiarize students with security personnel and procedures on campus through a variety of activities, such as wearing beer goggles to learn about drunken behavior and learning from a panel led by the Sexual Assault Response Unit (SARU). Throughout the week, Hop Cops were tabling on the Freshman Quad and providing passersby with security merchandise and important safety tips.

This page supports Security Week and commends the SGA for working with Hopkins Security on these vital events.

Security Week is important because of the crucial security information it provides for students. With the onslaught of endless midterms and papers, it is easy for students to forget that we live in an urban environment where crime is a reality.

Security Week also allows students to forge relationships with Hopkins security officers. To many students, the "security apparatus" at Hopkins seems to be a hidden, monolithic program, visible only

in the innumerable security cameras and blue lights on campus. Golf carts and Honda CR-Vs do little to acquaint Hopkins students with the people protecting them. Security Week allows students to converse face-to-face with the people we usually see behind the steering wheels of security vehicles.

Most importantly, Security Week exposes students to other essential campus groups, such as SARU and the Hopkins Emergency Response Organization (HERO). The SARU panel allowed students to learn about the resources available to them in case of a sexual assault, while HERO presented a disaster situation. Students need to know that they have many resources to draw upon in case of an emergency. Though it is optimistic to think that security information will never be useful, it is better to absorb it than to be caught unprepared.

We hope that Security Week will incentivize students to get more involved with the various services that Campus Safety & Security and groups such as SARU and HERO provide and for them to know that these groups are here to ensure their safety.

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The Gatehouse

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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter's* website, [www.jhunewsletter.com](http://WWW.JHUNEWSPAPER.COM).

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,200.

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OPINIONS

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Sonia Tsuruoka

Are women the Left's "new evangelicals"?

Anyone of remote importance in Washington has, at one point or another, endured some form of verbal whiplash from ideologue Rush Limbaugh.

Then again, the man isn't the right-wing radio king for nothing. He's captivating — like a train wreck — and is always up for a little rabble-rousing, be it with liberal poster child Rachel Maddow, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi or even, say, President Barack Obama himself.

Granted, to pass his shock-jock antics off as "punditry" would certainly be too much. But to dismiss his impact on right-wing thought would be even more of a fatal miscalculation. Give anyone who has made the grave mistake of incurring the wrath of Rush 24 hours before he or she retracts all criticisms and delivers a whimpering, tail-between-the-legs public apology.

That is, until now. Thanks to the Sandra Fluke firestorm, in which Limbaugh likened the Georgetown law student's support of contraception coverage to "prostitution," it's the foul-mouthed ideologue who's finally paying dues. Of course, that doesn't mean we should expect Godfather Limbaugh to go anywhere, anytime soon — like it or not, the man's an industry heavyweight — only that the party-wide consequences of his verbal blunders have yet to blow over for Republicans this November.

Slate's Hanna Rosin writes that single women are the new swing voters — the left's very own "evangelicals" — comprising one of the nation's largest, and fastest-growing voting block at around 55 mil-

lion. And that number is rising exponentially: in 2011, the number of single women broke even with the number of self-identifying white evangelical Christians, expanding at a rate of one million per year.

With Limbaugh's quasi-misogynistic tone of discourse bouncing around the political arena, women everywhere are increasingly mobilizing against "Cro-Magnon" culture warriors like Rick Santorum and his cohorts, not to mention neutral-minded "accomplices" like Mitt Romney who sit on the sidelines, idly refraining from objection. It's little wonder that progressive organizations like MoveOn.org have accused Republicans of waging a "war on women." "Judging from their comments, the GOP must have a serious problem with women," the ad argues bitterly. "And until the

Republicans get over their issues, we women have got a serious problem with the Republican Party." Yet another viral video, produced by women's rights group Ultraviolet, urges GOP frontrunner Romney to "stand up to Rush and stand

up for women."

Of course, women are not necessarily a monolith, and the Grand Old Party — to state the obvious — isn't exclusively comprised of sexist pigs. After all, it's moderate Republican and independent women who've increasingly expressed "disenchantment" with party leaders' self-imposed emphasis on social issues. But if, as mainstream Republicans complain, Limbaugh is more entertainer than iconic mouthpiece, they should do more than go through the empty gestures of halfhearted public denigration; rather, they should actively appeal to the masses of single

up for women."

women who stubbornly roadblock the gate to the White House. Sure, one age-old strategy that comes to mind is "the female Vice Presidential pick," a la McCain-Palin '08. But for a party loudly boasting prehistoric stances on contraception, even that's a tough sell.

Instead, GOP strategists might want to take a page out of their opposition's playbook. A *Gallup/USA Today* poll of swing states, released Monday, found Obama statistically tied with Romney among men, but leading by 18 points among women. Similarly, a Pew poll released last week ranked Obama's lead among women at 20 points. Much of Team Obama's hard numerical advantage can be credited to its tightly-coordinated campaign initiatives; since early March, it's distributed mailings to around a million women in more than a dozen battleground states, issuing separate versions for mothers, younger women, and older women. Moreover, their pointed appeals have been packaged in a way that smartly coincides with healthcare reform — the source of such bitter ideological contention.

Some right-wing and independent analysts say the sharp focus on social issues will wane, with all eyes fixed on national and international economic indicators in the following months. "Nobody thinks it will matter in a couple months," says Vin Weber, a Republican lobbyist and former congressman. "I certainly don't." For Weber's sake, I hope he's right. Because if he's wrong — if female activism matches the same generational fervor that delivered Obama the presidency four years ago — his strategic miscalculation could be a fatal one.

Sonia Tsuruoka is a sophomore International Studies and Writing Seminars double major from Montclair, N.J. She is the political opinions columnist for The News-Letter.

Super PACs winning political nominations

By KAUSHIK RAO

On Apr. 3rd, Mitt Romney swept three primaries which increased his delegate lead by 100 over second place candidate Rick Santorum. Santorum declared that it was only "halftime" in the Republican primaries and that he would stay in the race all the way up until the Republican National Convention. Even Newt Gingrich, who had a terrible night, decided that he would not end his campaign and that he too would take the race all the way to the convention.

Santorum and Gingrich are holding onto hope that they can win the next few primaries because they are being held in conservative states. But for all intents and purposes, Mitt Romney has sealed his bid for the Republican nomination. Now the question shifts to how Romney was able to win the nomination when he is so despised within his own party. The Republican electorate desired a strong conservative who preached religious conservatism. Santorum definitely fit this profile, and even Gingrich seemed to have more of an advantage than Romney in this department.

Suffice it to say, we only need to look at Romney's trail of money and his Super PAC to see how he was able to clinch the nomination. Romney centered his campaign on key states like Iowa and Florida. He outspent Santorum by over five times in both of those states.

Furthermore, he outspent Santorum and Gingrich in every other state that they competed in. All of this money was used to run negative campaign ads and ultimately derailed the campaigns of Santorum and

Gingrich while bolstering Romney's camp.

Romney and his Super PAC took full advantage of the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* and were able to spend unlimited amounts of money on their campaign.

Even though most of the religious right of the Republican Party was staunchly against nominating Romney, he was able to slash into the gains that were made by Santorum when Santorum's campaign started to gain some steam. So when we revisit the question, we can see that Romney was able to buy his nomination for the Republican Party. We have witnessed that money can easily buy elections and that the will of the electorate can be taken down by private money.

Now the Republican Party will have to rally around their presumptive nominee. And frankly, it is probably for the best that Romney is their candidate because even though his chances of beating the President are slim, he still has a much better chance at winning a general election than do either Santorum or Gingrich.

Santorum will not drop out of the race because he is holding out hope that he can win some conservative primaries. And Gingrich will not drop out due to his pride and the fact that he would like to gain a cabinet position in the White House. By staying in the race, he can keep his name relevant and eventually gain a consolation prize for not winning the primary.

Kaushik Rao is a freshman Political Science and Economics double major from Yorba Linda, Calif. He is a staff writer for The News-Letter.

Justice for Trayvon? Victim impact statements might spoil the opportunity

By NIKKO PRICE

The February shooting of the unarmed high school student Trayvon Martin has ignited a national outcry to "see justice done." George Zimmerman, the confessed shooter, hasn't yet been arrested because of a statute enacted in Florida and twenty other states — the so-called Stand Your Ground law, which allows citizens to use deadly force against an assailant if they "feel threatened." Due to the pressure of public opinion and the news media's success in publicizing the tragic shooting, the United States Department of Justice is now investigating the "facts and circumstances" of the case and even President Obama himself has weighed in. It seems all signs now point to Zimmerman's arrest and eventual trial.

A criminal trial in a court of law is of absolute necessity and Zimmerman ought to have already been arrested back in February. The evidence collected from the incident, in conjunction with eyewitness testimony and telephone recordings will likely be enough to render a guilty verdict. But Zimmerman will likely have to face another type of "evidence" against him: victim impact statements.

A victim impact statement (VIS) is a written or oral statement made by a relative or friend of a victim during the sentencing phase of a criminal trial. The statements often cast a positive light on the victim and underscore the "harm" the victim's death has caused the grieving family. Since its approval by the Supreme Court in 1991, VIS is quickly becoming a mainstay in criminal trials. And Angela Corey, the special prosecutor assigned to the case is known as an ardent supporter of victim's rights and has used victim impact statements in the past to lock up criminals for longer sentences.

These statements, though, ought to have no place in the trial of George Zimmerman.

In a strictly theoretical sense,

the "harm" caused to a victim's family should not matter at all in a court of law. Cesare Beccaria, the renowned Italian jurist and philosopher, describes how a criminal's actions never affect just those related to the victim. "Harm," rather, is produced when any criminal breaks the laws of society — laws which have been engendered by all citizens and entrusted in a sovereign to act as the protector and "depository" of the laws. The citizens enter into a social contract with their sovereign, forgoing some of their own liberties to live in an ordered society. To this end, when a law is broken, all citizens are harmed. Beccaria sums this up rather succinctly: "Every crime, however private it may be, offends society." A broken law, in other words, represents an unraveling of one strand in the social unity of the nation, threatening larger disruption and perhaps even annulment of the social contract of the society.

Introducing VIS in Zimmerman's trial, though, calls into question this notion of societal justice. Its introduction will shift "harm" from the expansive body of society to the single person. To Beccaria, this is a perilous development. Each victim is a member of society writ large, which, as one body, is a signatory of one contract. It is precisely for this reason that when a criminal trial is convened, the state in which the crime was committed is the adversary of the defendant. If we allow VIS in Zimmerman's trial, what was once a crime committed against a nation and the citizens of that nation would at once become simply an action committed by a single individual against another individual.

Allowing Martin's family to speak in the courtroom during the trial, moreover, cannot augment the will of society. On its face, one person's opinion is not representative of society's opinion. Recognizing this, Beccaria argues for the placement of the law in a body other than a single judge. Because laws "are received from a living society or from the sover-

ign who represents it and who is the depository of the current will of all citizens," one single individual cannot be representative of the will of the people. It is a "depository of the actual wills of all the people" that is to decide the crime and mete out punishment. In the twenty-first century, this "depository" has come to represent itself in a jury of the citizens of society. It is this group of jurors, not a single individual — not a judge nor a victim — that is the arbiter of justice. Vesting the responsibility to avenge society's harm in the hands of one individual runs up against the time-honored depository of the people.

But Prosecutor Corey will likely ask the jury to look at the shooting through the eyes of Martin's family to understand the extent of the grieving they must now endure. This demand, though, is an imprudent path to set down. The jury should not represent the will of one person or cater to the desires of a particular portion of society. It is the will of all people, not of a few, that is the final word of the law. By asking the jury to regard itself as the avenger for an individual victim risks undermining the entire concept of the law as a collective force.

VIS are also particularly dangerous because they emphasize the reputation of the victim. We've heard a lot lately about how Martin was suspended from school before the shooting because he was found with marijuana residue on school grounds. We've also seen him painted in a positive light, with his harmless school photo plastered all over the news media. Framing the victim as an innocent high school student or a dangerous drug dealer, though, should have no place in a criminal trial. All that matters is the law and the punishment for breaking it.

By allowing VIS into the courtroom, punishment is inevitably meted out differently to avenge a social superstar as opposed to a social reprobate. The superstar will have lines of "victims" itching to describe the extent of the harm

that his loss has caused "society," while the reprobate will be left to the dustbin of the docket, forgotten and ignored in a nation which views friendship as a prerequisite for representation under the law. There ought to be no circumstance in our jurisprudence in which a defendant may be let free simply because the victim isn't liked by enough people. Beccaria argued that punishments should apply equally to everyone, "From the throne to the hovel." It doesn't matter if Martin was indeed a "drug dealer" or an "innocent schoolboy." Such attachment of personal characteristics to victims invites arbitrariness and emotion into the rule of law.

But the potential problems of Zimmerman's trial that we must guard against extend even further than this. Introducing VIS will not only do away with the time-honored ideal of a justice system which protects all of society equally — not just a select number of well-liked individuals — but it might also invite politics and public opinion into the courtroom.

The shooting has already divided the nation along partisan lines.

According to a Pew Research Poll conducted this week, 38 percent of Democrats are following the case closely, while only 19 percent of Republicans are. Fifty-six percent of Republicans feel there has been "too much" coverage of the shooting while only 25 percent of Democrats feel that way. Commentators on MSNBC rail daily against the Sanford Police Department for not arresting Zimmerman and portray him as a cold-blooded killer. On the other end of the political spectrum, Fox News talking heads have been calling on the public to stop overreacting and to wait to see what actually happens in a court of law. With a Democratic President's Justice Department spearheading the investigation, and with a large public outcry to "see justice done" — especially among American liberals — it's likely that the trial will inevitably be politicized.

The problem, however, is that

the courts, in order to maintain their legitimacy and efficacy in democratic society, must be detached from political tides and outside agitators. The founders structured the courts so that they would remain the neutral arbiters of the truth, insulated from the "hydraulic pressure" of public opinion and the sweeping demands of politicians. As Beccaria warns, the "door to anarchy" is opened when the lines between lawmaker and judge are effaced: "The sovereign can only establish general laws that apply to all of its members; he cannot, however, pass judgment as to whether one of them has violated the social contract, for then the nation would be divided into two parties." To allow VIS in the Zimmerman trial is to turn a blind eye to the need of judicial separation. And this is the ultimate injustice, for a justice system tied to mere selfish, political desires is no adjudicator at all. Democracies fall when citizens are punished for political gain; in their place, tyranny is born.

Don't get me wrong, George

Zimmerman's actions were, in my view, reprehensible and unnecessary. I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Trayvon Martin and believe Zimmerman's conviction would be advantageous to American jurisprudence. But my personal view should not affect whether a man is found guilty or innocent — whether he lives or dies. We need to allow the courts to do what we have built them to do. We need to allow a detached and impartial jury to render a decision not based on emotion, politics or the reputation of Trayvon Martin, but rather on the facts and evidence legally presented. The country needs to see justice done, but justice can never be done when victim impact statements force us to forget what justice really is.

Nikko Price is a freshman Political Science major from Brookville, N.Y. He is the Opinions editor for The News-Letter.

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APRIL 5, 2012



The HOP Carnival



Beat Of The Nile



**By Geogina
Edionseri**

YOUR WEEKEND APR 5-8

B'more becomes a unique stop on the East Coast

Baltimore has always been a little bit like an insecure middle school kid.

Like most of us at that age, it has an identity crisis.

From the get go, Baltimore's location just above the 39th parallel north makes it an ambiguous location. Is it a northeast city or a southeast city?

At the onset of the Civil War, it seems that even its inhabitants couldn't agree. In 1861, Union troops marched along the well-known Pratt Street that passes today's Inner Harbor. Baltimore secessionists attacked the regiment, drawing the first blood of the Civil War.

Industrially, Baltimore's history is equally tumultuous.

After beginning in 1706 as a port for tobacco trade, Baltimore quickly became a sugar granary hub for Caribbean colonies.

When the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) railroad opened in 1830, Baltimore

Nathan McDonald

B'more Than Pre-med

became the primary link between industries of the East and the Midwest. It was around this time that John Quincy Adams declared Baltimore as "The Monumental City."

It seemed that Baltimore was destined for greatness.

Unfortunately, hampered by riots and strikes in the 19th century, Baltimore failed to find a cornerstone to build an identity to keep up with the successes of its East Coast neighbors.

It didn't have the federal spending of a national capitol like D.C. It didn't have a booming textile industry like that of Philadelphia. And it certainly didn't have the millions of immigrants



COURTESY OF PEAKSOVERPOVERTY.ORG

Stop by the Farmer's Market on 32nd Street to pick up fresh groceries.

like that of New York.

The last blow to Baltimore was a 1904 fire that flattened 1,500 downtown buildings, putting Baltimore on a long road to recovery.

Seventy years later, with

a steel and docks industry grinding to a slow demise, Baltimore found itself still without much of a definitive identity.

So it did what most insecure middle kids do.

It tried to emulate the "cool crowd" — the "cool crowd" being D.C., Philly and New York.

And yet, also like middle school, no matter what Baltimore dressed up in, whether it was a flashy Inner Harbor or spacious city convention center, it just couldn't get a double take from anyone.

It had missed the message we all heard from our school counselors: Just be yourself.

The only good thing about being in middle

school is that one day, you'll be out of it.

We all went through the phase of Abercrombie cargos and metal-studded Hot Topic pants, but we came out okay.

Baltimore, too, is breaking out of its pimply complexion and braces and finally starting to find its mojo.

Whether it's a Northeast, Southeast or Mid-Atlantic city, it doesn't matter. Baltimore is learning to just be itself.

Here are some places to see the proof:

The Book Thing
3001 Vineyard Lane, 21218

Whoever said "there's no such thing as a free lunch" must not have been to The Book Thing of Baltimore.

It may not be a free lunch, but it's even better.

Free books.

Everything from textbooks to cookbooks line the many shelves of this free book store.

It's open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and it's a short

walk from campus.

Just be prepared to carry a heavy load home.

Sofi's Crepes
1723 North Charles Street, 21210

This is a Baltimorean's take on the French classic. Hop on the JHMI to Penn Station and walk one block north on Charles Street to get a taste of breakfast, dinner or dessert crepes.

Call it a French travesty, but the Thanksgiving crepe leaves much to be thankful for. It's filled with turkey, cranberry chutney and pesto mayo.

Don't leave without trying one of the dessert crepes such as the self-explanatory s'mores.

32nd Street Farmer's Market

32nd street and Barclay, 21218

Eating local and organic doesn't have to mean eating pricey.

Skip Einstein's this Saturday and instead, try a fresh pastry and homemade cider from the local businesses at the market.

While you're there, pick up your week's produce at wholesale prices. Many fruits and vegetables cost half of what you'll pay at a grocer.

Stop by any Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon.

It's worth the early rise.

Overall, Baltimore is beginning to develop its own charming self; these three examples are only the tip of the iceberg. There are so many more examples of how Baltimore is quickly becoming a unique stop along the East Coast.

If you're trying to look for it, you'll be able to see Baltimore's identity on every street, at every Charm Circulator stop, and around every corner.

**JHU Barnstormers present
The Drowsy Chaperone**

her producer, who tries to stop the wedding by enlisting a man named Aldolpho to seduce her.

The Man in the Chair brings the audience in and out of the fantasy as he offers his personal commentary.

Performances are in the Swirnow Theatre in the Mattin Centre on April 5, 7, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. and April 7 and 15 at 3 p.m.

Tickets can be reserved online at <http://bit.ly/zQDx71>. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission.

— Florence Lau

Film festival to celebrate the art of filmmaking

By FLORENCE LAU

Your Weekend Editor

films will be presented in 35mm print in Shriver Hall: *Night of the Hunter* (1955), 8 1/2 (1963) and *Ghostbusters* (1984).

There will also be a special screening of *Bad Boys II*, hosted by Dan Deacon and Jimmy Joe Roche.

In addition, there will be multiple series of programs which will highlight films both from around the world as well as from local students.

Admission to every event is free with a proper Hopkins ID. Otherwise, tickets are \$5 for a screening pass, \$10 for a day pass, and \$20 for a general festival pass.

All tickets can be purchased at any show.

For a full schedule of films shown, visit <http://hopkinsfilmfest.com>.

Calendar of Baltimore Events

Thurs. April 5

Charm City Trivia
7 p.m.
Mother's Federal Hill Grill

If you think you know Baltimore, come to Mother's on Thursday and test your knowledge. There will be house cash, shots and other prizes for winners.



Tony Wood
8 p.m.
Baltimore Comedy Factory

Tony Wood, a favorite at the Comedy Factory, kicked

off his career as a member of Def Comedy Jam on HBO. These days, he is known as a natural entertainer with sharp and mischievous subject matter and an ability to entertain on every level.

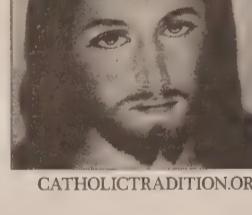
Rock Paper B'More
8 p.m. — 2 a.m.
Ottobar

Chester Endersby Gwazda, Future Islands, Raffi Joe and DJ Fiar Medico will be part of a music festival to raise money for Baltimore By Hand so that they can publish the creative writing of local K-12 students. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. There will be a raffle at 11 p.m. to give away prizes.

Fri. April 6
Orioles Opening Day
All Day
Oriole Park

Come at 12 p.m. to enjoy the musi-

cal groups roaming around Eutaw Street and the main concourses until 2:30 p.m., when pregame ceremonies will begin with the introduction of players and coaches of the Orioles and the Twins.



A Good Friday Lecture
1 — 2 p.m.
Walters Art Museum

Gary Vikan will be exploring the emergence of the face of Christ in the early medieval period that is now depicted everywhere and how it was adapted by other Christian nations of the world.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame
3 — 9 p.m.
Nolans

See the Orioles

go up against the Minnesota Twins. There will be free giveaways, including a Carl Ripkin Jr. autographed photo, and a special modified baseball themed menu. Participate in trivia contests and play in games.

All Metal Tribute to the Bee Gees

7 p.m.

Ram Head Live

Tragedy, an all metal tribute to the Bee Gees, will be coming to Baltimore fresh from their UK tour. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door plus tax.



Sherlock Holmes
8 p.m.
Remsen 1

Come see Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes and

Jude Law as John Watson and watch them engage in an intellectual and action-packed battle against an enemy that threatens the well-being of the whole of England.

Sat. April 7

Maryland Campaign of 1862

4 — 5 p.m.

Surratt House Museum

Civil War expert Dennis Frye will be discussing battlefield decisions and how they changed the outcome of battles in the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

Blood-Bound and Tongue-Tied

8 p.m.

The Strand Theatre

It's your last chance to catch the world premiere of a play about a young black woman trying to pass as white in a big city. Her pregnancy with the child of the heir of an oil baron leads

to a lie that ends in bloodshed and tragedy. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online.

Humari Awaaz
7 — 10 p.m.
Bloomberg Auditorium

JHU Kranti will be hosting a South Asian showcase. There will be music from groups from Boston, Md., and Ill. Admission is free, and there will also be free Indian food.

Sun. April 8



Dogwood Easter Sunday Brunch
10:30 — 3 p.m.
The Dogwood

For only \$36, enjoy a three-course Easter Brunch menu, including chilled asparagus soup, ham and coconut chocolate eggs.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Poet in Residence Martin finds a home at Hopkins

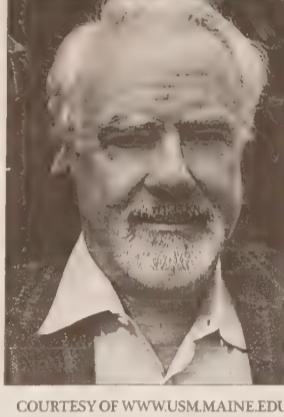
By BARBARA LAM
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"When people ask me which of the poets I'm proudest of publishing, Charles Martin's name is always the first that comes to mind," Professor John Irwin said when he introduced 70-year-old poet Martin on April 3rd. Martin was named Hopkins's Sullivan Elder Poet in Residence for spring of 2012 and read to the Hopkins community last Tuesday in Mason Hall Auditorium. The large crowd filled the aisles, creating an effective fire hazard, and spilled out into the lobby.

Martin, who has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize multiple times, is a professor at Queensborough Community College (CUNY) and Syracuse University. He has published six books of poetry, the most recent of which was *Signs & Wonders*, from the Johns Hopkins University Press. Martin discussed the collection when he visited an Introduction to Poetry class earlier that day to speak with young poetry students at Hopkins.

At 6:30 exactly Martin took to the podium, leaning in so that the dozens of people standing in the back could hear him. "Alan Grossman defined a poem as an occasion for people to get together and talk about poetry," he said. "I guess that's what we're doing here."

He began with a reading



COURTESY OF WWW.USM.MAINE.EDU
Martin is Hopkins's poet-in-residence.

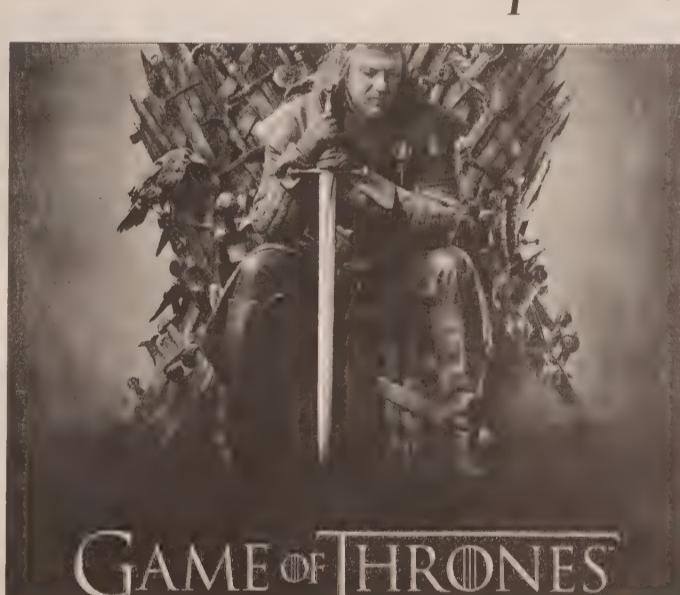
and a few things that go at the end. The middle is sort of up for grabs."

He laughed and explained that the majority just works itself out, and confessed that starting his reading with another poet's work was just to delay the reading of his own.

He followed "Blue Eyes" with several *Signs & Wonders* poems including "The Flower Thief" and "Souvenir," a more serious poem about a cornhusk cricket he had bought in Rome from a Chinese immigrant.

In this poem, Martin demonstrates his incredible capacity for unique, subtle rhymes, and gentle but probing thoughts. "Be overlooked as waste / (As

SEE MARTIN, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF WWW.MAKINGGAMEOFTHRONES.COM
Game of Thrones returned to TV screens all over America after a long hiatus.

Game of Thrones rules over network competitors

By RYAN KAHN
Hip Hop Editor

When it came to this past Sunday's big night of television—between the season finales of *Shameless*, *House of Lies*, and *Californication*, the season premiere of *The Killing*, and the third episode of *Mad Men*—*Game of Thrones* took the crown (pun intended). HBO's brainchild ended with such hype last summer and picked right back up this past weekend in similar fashion.

Game of Thrones fans woke up Monday morning feeling satisfied from an episode that got the second season off to a great start; yet hungry for the rest of the season, which has huge promise.

After the show's awards and notoriety during the offseason, the increased budget and production should improve its overall quality—which was evident in the "scenes for the upcoming season" after the episode.

For those who haven't read George R. R. Martin's novels, watched the first season of the show, or just can't remember the plot lines behind the character web, Hulu's *The Morning After Show* provided a great rundown to get everyone up to speed.

Monday's *Morning After Show* compared the medieval realms of protagonists and antagonists to its perfect medium—High School. Starting

with the Dothraki, with their emphasis on size, power, and constant shirtlessness, this group lands in the jock category.

Daenerys Targaryen is the school's top cheerleader and prom queen; she gets followed around by "the jocks" and is literally smoking hot (she emerged from fire at the end of last season with two dragons).

Next is the House Stark; with their ethics, respect for others, and by constantly getting bullied (from almost everybody in the show that's not in Robb's army) this family is the High School nerds.

The House Lannister rounds out the clique dynamic. With their entitlement, flaunting of wealth, and egos, this family is the prototypical preps and mean girls.

When looking further

into Sunday's episode, it is clear that HBO stuck to their recipe of success from the first season. They began the show with King Joffrey and

By LILY NEWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

of "Blue Eyes," a translation of Octavio Paz's "El ramo zul." Martin is well known for his translations, most notably of Latin poetry, which he has won prizes for.

The narrative poem "Blue Eyes" speaks of a 20th-century traveling salesman who's caught in a stick-up—the robber wants the salesman's eyes because his lady has asked for a bouquet of blue eyes.

Many of Martin's poems from the night were highly narrative, exhibiting elaborate storylines in a short amount of space.

"People sometimes ask me, 'How do you put together a book of poems?' It's a lot like putting together a reading," Martin said. "You have a few things that go in the beginning

and a few things that go at the end. The middle is sort of up for grabs."

He laughed and explained that the majority just works itself out, and confessed that starting his reading with another poet's work was just to delay the reading of his own.

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SEE MARTIN, PAGE B4

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into Sunday's episode, it is clear that HBO stuck to their recipe of success from the first season. They began the show with King Joffrey and

constantly reminded the audience of why they hate him so much. Throughout the episode, Joffrey displayed his arrogance and obnoxious personality, which we all love to hate.

Another part of the episode that was particularly well done was the focus on Robb and his army. Robb Stark, played by Richard Madden, is starting to assume a well deserved starring role; he has the charisma, valor, and audience backing that will improve the overall storyline.

Especially with the increased funding and budget, look for more war scenes that will play into Madden's character well.

With that being said,

there are certain aspects that the show can be improved upon. First are the special effects; the dragons and the red streak



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Katniss and Gale escape to the woods to hunt before the action and terror of the Hunger Games begins.

throwing up everywhere. Sure, the contrast was stark, but everything seemed very familiar, and not just in a Panem-is-the-dystopian-future-of-the-United-States kind of way. Sometimes it was more of a this-is-a-movie-set kind of way.

The arena was well-conceived and I liked the unsettling feeling that something could emerge from the woods at any moment. Especially because sometimes crazy stuff did, like fireballs or CGI monster mutts.

It's hard to talk about the movie without talking about the guys. This movie lays the groundwork for the love triangle between Katniss, Gale (Liam Hemsworth) and Peeta (Josh Hutcherson). Frankly, I don't know what to say. They're both hot. They're both earnest. They both look great with Jennifer Lawrence. The sexual tension is pretty much there and Peeta's

longing is top notch.

As I was reading the books I remember being surprised that the romantic plots were so compelling. Katniss is certainly out of touch with her emotions throughout, and Peeta is probably excessive in opining his unrequited

love. Even the fact that Gale gets woefully inadequate book and screen time is not enough to extinguish interest. If you're invested in the plot and in it for the long haul, you're invested in the love connections, innocent and even corny as they might be.

Haymitch (Woody Har-

HUNGER GAMES

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth
Director: Gary Ross
Run Time: 142 min.
Rating: PG-13
Playing at: Landmark's Harbor East Cinema, Rotunda Cinemas

elson) and Effie (Elizabeth Banks) made sense as Katniss and Peeta's mentors, though Woody Harrelson doesn't have the rotundity that I had imagined for Haymitch. Nonetheless, the scene where he pins Peeta to a chair with his foot is

definitely in the spirit of Haymitch. His gruffness is paired back to simplify his complicated relationship with Katniss, but the most important thing about Haymitch, his humor, remains intact. Effie is just neurotic enough at the same time that she is

SEE HUNGER GAMES, PAGE B5

ally does seem to be about kicking back and enjoying yourself.

This carefree feeling is further accentuated by Iha's classic mellow sound and more use of acoustic guitar.

Hot Singles on the Internet: James Iha's "Summer Days"

The phrase "summer days, waste away" is repeated several times in the corner, inviting listeners to fall away in the hazy world that is "Summer Days."

Overall, the effect is irresistible, especially when summer is right around the corner.

So everyone check out "Summer Days" by James Iha.

It's the perfect antidote to the last stages of winter and a good reminder that summer is fast approaching.

— Rachel Schnalzer



COURTESY OF WWW.LAST.FM

Guitarist James Iha released his album *Look to the Sky* in March.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

What to expect from PBS's Great Expectations

New mini-series joins the ranks of *Downton Abbey*, *Antiques Roadshow* and the *BBC World News*

Oh, what to say about PBS's newest mini-series *Great Expectations* (based on Charles Dickens's classic novel about how much it sucks to be an orphan in foggy England)?

I've struggled to balance my general dislike of Dickens and his work with my love of PBS and the shows it produces. My experience with Dickens has generally been "tl;dr" — to phrase it in internet-speak — and the times I truly attempted to get through the pages and pages of description, I fell asleep. *Great Expectations* is the only novel of his that I've read in its entirety.

PBS, on the other hand, is an institution I can really get behind. Not only does it bring forth television gems like *Downton Abbey*, *North and South*, the perennial favorite *Antiques Roadshow* and Jane Austen month, but it also has the great benefit of being tax-deductible for sponsors.

I should now mention that it is my life dream to be the highest level sponsor and to attend the annual PBS gala (which I only assume occurs) and rub shoulders with Laura Linney.

Now that I've sufficiently talked around the issue, let's get back to the point. What to expect when you have *Great Expectations* on PBS.

1) Mud-wrestling. The scene in which Abel



COURTESY OF WWW.YOULOOKAWESOME.CO.UK AND WWW.AHLANLIVE.COM
Burberry really likes specific features in its models; note the lips on Douglas Booth and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley.

Magwitch wrestles with... some other dude is hands-down the funniest thing I've seen in a while. Imagine this: two fully-grown men leaping at each other and face planting in goopy mud. Multiple times. While in period clothing.

Also, Magwitch tries to drown his opponent in two feet of mud.

2) Monochromatic color schemes. Whether it's clothing, skin color, hair color or light filters, gray dominates the screen. The

marshes are kind of a grayish color, the fog that pervades the marshes is kind of gray, the mud in which two escaped convicts mud-wrestle is gray. Miss Havisham (played by Gillian Anderson, better known as Scully from *The X-Files*) sports a white, curly do that makes her look like a poodle. You get the idea.

3) Confusing wardrobe choices. Sometimes the characters look like poor 19th century laborers. Sometimes they look like someone took a pair of scissors to shag carpeting. Most of the time they look 21st century hipsters.

4) Pip's lips. Maybe Douglas Booth's lips would be more precise. In a landscape of gray, Pip's pouty, bee-stung lips bring a little color to the screen. Also, if you're wondering where you've seen him before, you may know Booth as a Burberry model. Or the object of some X-rated fantasies.

On a more serious note, the best aspect of this mini-series is the cinematography. Beautifully shot, the English countryside

acquires a dank and disturbing atmosphere, as it echoes the mystery surrounding the identity of the escaped criminal. Desolate, damp and generally depressing, the landscape gives us a good idea of why Pip wants to escape his life of drudgery and verbal abuse to become (as he keeps saying) a gentleman.

The weakest aspect of the show, sadly, is Gillian Anderson. Miss Havisham's charm lies in her curmudgeonly persnickety-ness. Dickens's Havisham is mean. Anderson's portrayal of her is mostly annoying, and her poodle hairdo hardly strikes fear into the hearts of the viewers.

In all likelihood, I will take the time this Sunday night to watch the second and final installment of this series. There are some decent aspects to this adaptation. Besides, I should probably support all of PBS's programming if I want to get invited to this gala. And watching a 150 min. television adaptation takes less time than reading the book.



COURTESY OF WWW.BBC.CO.UK
A young Pip stands outside of Satis House, where his life changes.

Hunger Games is actually pretty great

HUNGER GAMES, FROM B3
morally complicated.

I appreciated the forethought that went into adapting the book and it was clear that the later conflicts were being framed through subtle chronology changes. The only subplot that was cut that I will really miss is the avox plot.

Avoxes are people who have had their tongues removed because they were somehow traitorous to the Capitol, and though I agree that the extended plots from the book are relatively unimportant in this context, I wish that the existence of avoxes had been acknowledged. They are a symbol of the Capitol's cruelty and they are actually in the movie, stationed around the tribute training compound. I hope that at least there was originally a line about them which was later cut.

On the one hand I am not sure that Jennifer Lawrence convinced me of Katniss's terror and conflict, but on the other hand I was happy to accept her as my mental image of Katniss. Lawrence does have a sort of understated poise and self-containment that reminds me of the Katniss I imagined in the books.

I know that ultimately comparing a movie and a book is not productive, and that this movie needs to be analyzed as it stands, but my desire to compare the two stems from the fact that the movie is extremely successful. Both times I saw it I came away feeling extremely satisfied and almost as if I had just finished a good book. To me that's a real triumph for a franchise film. I'm looking forward to romantic scenes on the train in the next movie.

Finally coming around to the central character, I think Katniss's complexity was only hinted at in this movie. Though she thinks of herself as an unwilling protagonist, it is hard for me to forget that she volunteered to protect Prim, and that her survival skills

always kick in at just the right moment. Though it all begins with one decision, even this first choice to volunteer is massive and has immediate rather than eventual consequences. In a way, Katniss embodies her full power from the start.

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CARTOONS, ETC.

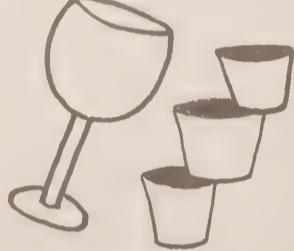
Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Stoll Li



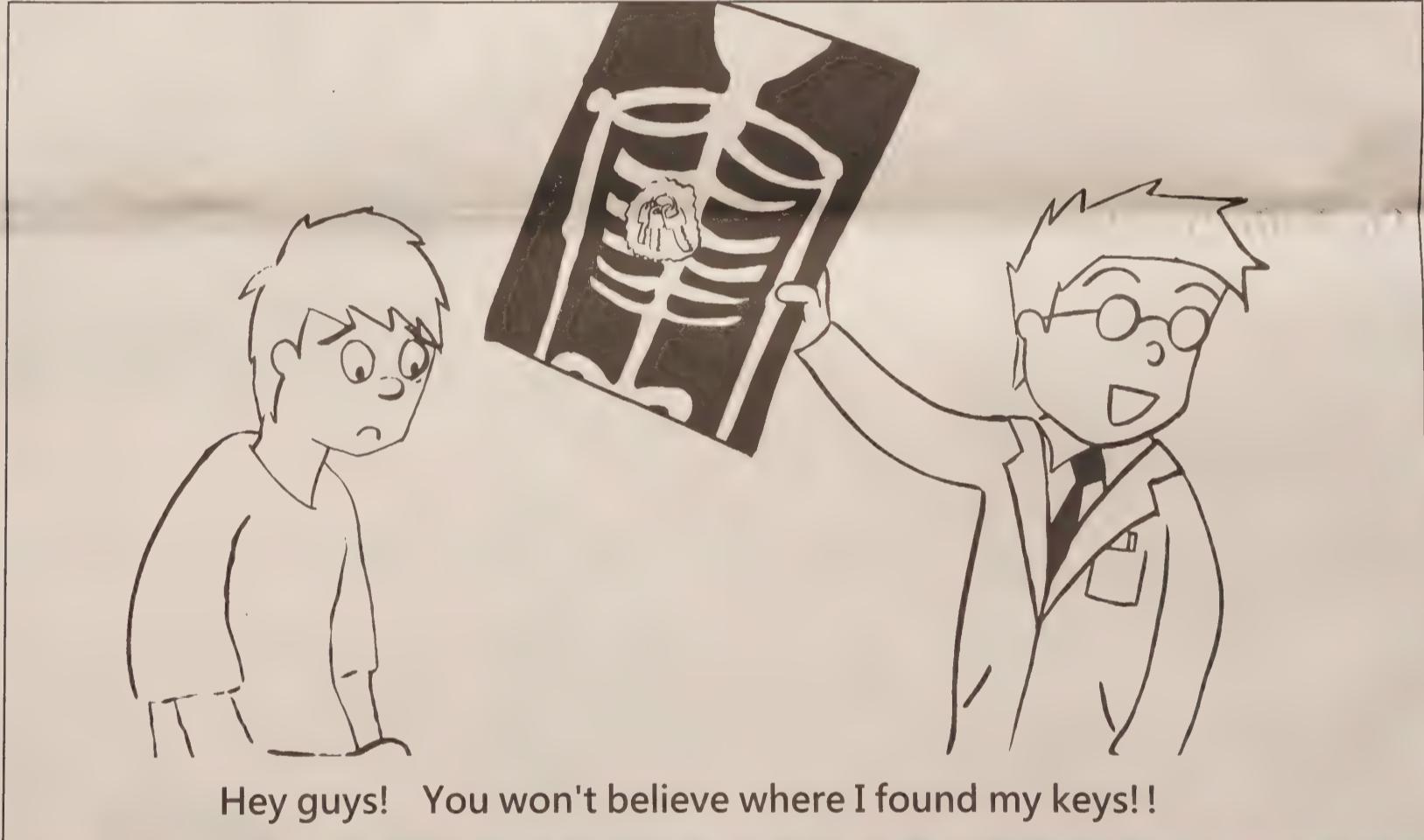
Senior Spring

By Katie Mann

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class @ 11 am  Shop in Towson!	No Class  Go to beach!!!	Class @ 1 pm [SLEEP TO 12:45]	No Class  PUB NIGHT!!	10 page paper due at 5 pm  CLUB NIGHT!!!

Here They Are!

By A. Kwan



JohnCon 2012 Redux

Panels,
Lasertag,
Board Games,
Video Games,
Anime Screening,
Dealers Room,
Artist Alley, and more...



From Friday
April 6th @ 5pm
through Sunday
April 8th @ 5pm
48 Hours!

**FREE
FOR ALL!**
Levering Hall
Johns Hopkins University

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New-found quasars act as gravitational lenses Possible water conduit found beneath Earth

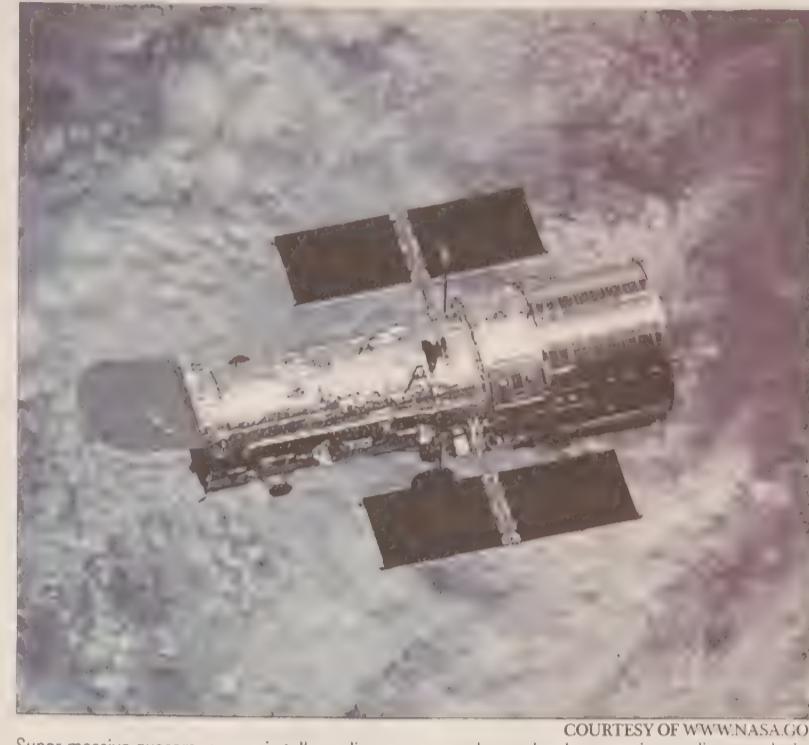
By DAN CADEL
Staff Writer

Researchers recently discovered a group of quasars acting as "gravitational lenses." Using the Hubble Space telescope, three such quasars were found, allowing for imaging of galaxies and measurements associated with the quasars. The research was performed as a collaboration among various institutions in the United States, Germany and Switzerland.

"The long-term goal of this study is to compare systematically masses of quasar host galaxies with a normal galaxy population at the same redshifts," wrote George Djorgovski of California Institute of Technology in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Quasars, an acronym for quasi-stellar radio sources, exist at the center of some galaxies and are associated with black holes. Black holes exist at the center of galaxies; they get their name from the property that no light can escape their region of influence. Thus, surrounding the black hole is the quasar, which emits very high intensity electromagnetic radiation.

According to Einstein's theory of general relativity, which also predicts the existence of black holes, space-time is curved locally, due to the effect of massive objects. As light waves pass by such an object, its



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Super-massive quasars, or quasi-stellar radio sources, can be used as lenses to image distant galaxies.

trajectory is curved into a new path. As a result, light reaching Earth from distant sources may cause the object to appear to be in a different location than it actually is.

Gravitational lensing follows from this phenomenon. The image seen behind the lens will be magnified and distorted, and multiple copies of the image may be present. In the center of the image, the lens object appears, since it is closer to the observer. Around this, a ring

of light known as an Einstein Ring is formed. This ring of light is actually the distorted image of the further object.

In the new research, super-massive quasars are used as the lenses, allowing the imaging of galaxies to be aligned behind them. Further, information from the images can be used to determine the radial mass distribution of the lensing object — in this case the galaxy containing the quasar.

"There are basically

two ways to measure galaxy masses: from the dynamics of some test particles moving in their gravitational potential (gas, stars, dwarf companions, etc.), and gravitational lensing," Djorgovski wrote.

"For the normal galaxies, the two approaches agree, giving the same amounts of dark matter." However, the first method "is essentially impossible to do for the quasar hosts, since their bright active nuclei greatly outshine the stars and the gas whose motions we would need to measure," Djorgovski wrote.

For the three cases studied here, the data is consistent with masses found for non-quasar galaxies using traditional techniques. "It will take a much larger sample to do this right," Djorgovski wrote, "but this is a start."

By ANNE MCGOVERN
For *The News-Letter*

For years, scientists have speculated about the process that moves water from the Earth's crust to its interior at the site of subduction zones in the deep ocean.

Currently, a project led by seismologist Daniel Lizarralde, associate scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Doug Wiens, an Earth and Planetary Sciences professor at Washington University in St. Louis, plans to answer this question by taking a look at the bottom of the deepest place on earth: the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench.

Water is an essential part of the Earth's mantle. Though made of solid rock, the mantle exhibits convection patterns that are caused by a temperature gradient between the Earth's cool crust and hot core. This flow influences plate movements on the Earth's surface, as well as

earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The role that water plays in this process is to help keep the mantle viscous, and scientists have known that it exists in the Earth's interior because of its presence in volcanic eruptions. This presence indicates that surface-water must be getting into the mantle somehow, but scientists are still unsure. The answer, Lizarralde and Wiens hope, lies in the Mariana Trench.

With its deepest recorded depth at 35,814 feet below the surface, the Mariana Trench is the site of the world's deepest and wettest subduction zone. Here, the edge of the Pacific Plate is slowly being jammed under its neighbor, the Eurasian Plate, thus recycling the crust's materials back into Earth.

According to Lizarralde, the Pacific Plate cracks as it plunges beneath the adjacent plate. If these cracks reach deep enough — between four and six miles into the mantle — then

TRENCHES, SEE B8



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Scientists study Mariana Trench to understand water flow beneath Earth

Study finds reduced vaccine efficacy

By RACHEL WITKIN
Managing Editor

Without the aid of vaccines, humans would still have an extremely high risk of dying from diseases such as smallpox or diphtheria. When Edward Jenner created the world's first vaccine, however, he probably did not realize that manufacturing synthetic chemicals would negatively affect his vaccines. According to a recent study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), high exposures of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) have stopped vaccines from doing their job.

Vaccines work by helping people's immune system fight off diseases. The immune system first recognizes the vaccine, which is an injected virus or bacteria, as an unknown substance. The immune system then develops antibodies, which are able to fight off the injected substance. That way, when people are actually exposed to diseases, their immune system will already know what to do.

"A vaccine is used to stimulate the immune system to respond to a specific pathogen or antigen without giving you the disease," Hopkins School of Public Health Professor Jay Bream said. "If you come into contact with that pathogen in real life, you'd be able to mount a memory response to that pathogen to provide protection against infection."

Vaccines are administered at a very young age so that people will develop immunity to diseases early on without having to suffer from them first. People are at a much higher risk of contracting diseases if they have not developed enough antibodies.

Harvard University Professor Philippe Grand-



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Children's antibodies decreased, suggesting that vaccines didn't work.

jean began his study by focusing on the effects of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) on the immune system of children in the Faroe Island. He decided to focus on the effects of PFCs on antibody production after reading studies about the negative effect of PFCs on mice.

"We became aware that some mouse studies had shown that the perfluorinated compounds used as stain and water repellents are also immunotoxic, at least in rodents," Grandjean wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

PFCs are stable organic compounds that last a very long time in the environment. They are both water and grease resistant, which is why they are used for coating items such as paper plates, shoes and microwaveable popcorn bags. These compounds can be absorbed by humans through contaminated food, water or dust.

SEE VACCINES, PAGE B8

Seeing around corners made possible

By CATIE PAUL
Staff Writer

One day, technology may allow human beings to possess some of the same abilities as Superman. Ramesh Raskar and Andreas Velten, researchers from MIT, have come up with technology that allows people to be able to see around corners without using their eyes. Ordinarily, this is impossible unless you stand in front of a reflective surface, such as a mirror. Then, objects behind you or to the side of you will reflect light, which will subsequently bounce off the mirror to your eyes.

Grandjean chose the Faroe Islands for his study due to their penchant for PFC heavy fish. His study started with 656 consecutive births at the Faroe Islands' National Hospital from 1997-2000.

Due to the free health care system of the island, each infant received diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and haemophilus influenzae type B vaccinations at the age of three months. A booster vaccination for tetanus and diphtheria was administered at the age of five.

The children were examined multiple times so that the team of scientists could track how the children's immune systems responded to the

Standing in front of a non-reflective wall, however, you won't be able to see anything around a corner, because the wall absorbs most of the light reflected off of the objects in the vicinity and scatters the rest of it.

In this study, the researchers used a laser, a beam-splitter, a camera and an algorithm that they developed. The laser is fired at a wall through the beam-splitter. When it hits the splitter, half of it is reflected to the object around the corner, where it reflects off the object hits the wall, and then returns to the camera.

The other half of the laser light goes directly to

the camera, which allows the operators of the equipment to measure the time it takes for the particles of light from the other half of the laser to return to the camera. The laser is emitted in pulses that occur every 50 femtoseconds, which is a millionth of a billionth of a second.

Raskar and Velten use the algorithm to analyze when the returning photons arrive. The algorithm and the reference beam reconstruct an image of the object around the corner.

The algorithm helps to account for the fact that the photons, or particles of light, from the laser that hit

CORNERS, SEE B8



NATHALIA GIBBS/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Laser beam lets us see around corners

Algorithm reconstructs unseen image

CORNERS, FROM B7
an object in the room will return sooner than the ones that bounce off of a rear wall. This allows the researchers to see three-dimensional objects, such as the mannequin of a running man, which was the object they used in the experiment.

One potential problem with the technology is that it isn't very portable. Right now, the laser and camera fit on a small bench.

However, the researchers believe that other experiments with lasers being carried on right now can help eventually make the equipment less bulky.

Also, the resolution of the image that appears isn't as good as the resolution of the human eye. It picks up objects the size of a centimeter only at a distance of a few meters, so only relatively large objects show up on the camera.

The camera used by the researchers currently has an exposure time of picoseconds: one picosecond is one trillionth of a second. Raskar believes that a shorter exposure time can increase image resolution.

Despite the very low resolution, the researchers still believe that it is a useful method for detecting

objects that are not directly in the line of sight.

Velten also believes that an algorithm similar to the one they created can be used in reconstructing images of the insides of a backlit object, which is something he thinks may be important in medical imaging.

Instead of using X-rays, doctors can then use visible light, which doesn't have all of the potential side effects and limitations of X-rays, such as not being able to see soft tissues.

Raskar and Velten believe that their current work can be applied to anything that requires seeing outside of someone's line of sight.

On the webpage featuring their work on the MIT Media Lab website, they mention some specific applications, such as locating survivors in a burning building, avoiding car crashes at blind corners, as well as various endoscopy procedures such as cardioscopies, colonoscopies and bronchoscopies.

Raskar believes that their development changes what we will be able to do with cameras. An article on their technology about seeing around corners was published online in the journal *Nature Communications*.

How hypothermia affects mammalian brains

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

Jai Madhock and his colleagues at the Hopkins School of Medicine have taken the first step in determining the effects of decreasing the core body temperature, or hypothermia, on mammalian brains.

This type of hypothermia has previously been shown to protect brain cells from additional damage after head trauma, heart attacks, stroke and spinal cord injury. In addition, earlier studies have proven that hyperthermia, or an increase in core body temperature, has the reverse effect by facilitating the degradation of neurons in the brain.

Despite this knowledge, previous studies looking at hypothermia-related effects on the brain have been limited in their scope. There has been a need to move research concerning the development of neuron-protection strategies, from a cellular and laboratory level, to a more clinical setting that focuses on animal models, such as rats and mice.

Additionally, most research has focused on the effect of hypothermia on brains that have already experienced some significant trauma, as opposed to uninjured brains. In studies that looked at uninjured brains, researchers used an indirect method of brain imaging to determine the effect on brain and neuron physiology.

Madhok's study, however, uses uninjured brains of live rats, to determine the effect of hypothermia. This suggests that while

on brain activity, which was measured using electroencephalography, or EEG, and steady-state evoked potentials, or SSEP. EEG detects changes in electrical activity along the scalp. SSEPs measure the electrical signals relayed from nerves in different parts of the body to the brain.

Published in the *Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology*, this study focuses on stimulation of the frontal occipital region of the brain, which controls vision, and the primary somatosensory area, which controls response to tactile changes, such as touch, pain and, of course, temperature.

Results showed that hypothermia causes a suppression of EEGs in the brain and a simultaneous increase in SSEPs. Additionally, EEG signals came in unnatural bursts with long intermediary periods of low activity. This suggests that while



ALEX MUI/CARTOONS EDITOR

Hypothermia increases brain activity while reducing signals from somatosensory areas.

brain activity is increasing when the core body temperature drops, signals from the somatosensory regions, such as the skin, are dropping. The levels of EEGs and SSEPs return to a normal state when the body is sufficiently rewarmed.

Another observation was that, as the number and frequency of SSEPs increased, their amplitudes also showed a 200 percent to 400 percent increase in

brains tested at normal temperatures. This possibly points to a regulation of activity in the cortical region of the brain, where signals are received that is solely mediated on hypothermia.

Additionally, the patterns of the EEGs were significantly suppressed. This could have been caused by a suppression of brain metabolism as a result of hypothermia or the anesthetic.

This study can potentially resolve the mixed results from previous studies that focused on the effect of low temperature on brain activity, since they also considered additional factors, such as varying anesthetics, rate of cooling and depth of temperature change.

Exposure to pollutants reduces vaccine protection in children

VACCINES, FROM B7

vaccinations. Children were examined at the age of five before they received their boosters, four weeks after the booster and again when they were seven years old. 464 children, which is 74 percent of the original 656, were still participating in the study by age seven.

They determined the prenatal exposure to the PFCs by taking serum, which is a component of blood, from the 32-week pregnant mothers. Serum was also taken from the children before their 5-year booster shot. They analyzed each sample to determine the concentration of PFCs and PCBs.

The team realized that the blood samples revealed PFC exposures similar to those from the U.S. Grandjean's study is the first to make a direct connection between PFC exposure and the amount of antibodies in human immune systems. Their results are supported by previous studies that focused on rodents.

"The fact that they obtained similar results to previous studies is reassuring that their methodology was not totally out of line," Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health professor Cindy Parker wrote in an email.

Bream is also intrigued by the study due to its uniqueness. He points out that Grandjean and his team have pioneered the topic.

"It's interesting, because, as they pointed out, [it] made this connection prospectively between these compounds and a



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Researchers collected blood serum from vaccine recipients including pregnant mothers and young children.

potential effect on the immune response," he said. "The effect on the immune response is measured indirectly by the response to the vaccination."

Bream thinks that the study is particularly strong because the authors used a prospective design instead of a cross-sectional one. This means that each person was studied individually and was not dependent on any of the other people involved in the study.

"Each person could act as its own control over time," Bream said.

Bream believes that the connection between PFC exposure and immunity does exist. However, he thinks that the study would be stronger if it were repeated.

"That's a difficult study to do, but it's just one study. It would need to be repeated in different populations with larger numbers independently to confirm the results," he said.

Grandjean hopes that his study will encourage

people to take the harmful effects of PFCs seriously. Although there currently is no threat of these children contracting diseases such as diphtheria, it is still important to know whether vaccines are working or not.

"These findings suggest that we should now look at immune functions in regard to possible adverse effects of pollutants, such as the PFCs," Grandjean wrote.

Bream notes that there have already been measures to reduce products that use PFCs. The EPA has also been working on new rules for these chemicals to be phased out by manufacturers.

Grandjean hopes that his study will encourage

of these companies, we still don't know what other sorts of environmental hazards that there may be that may also be impacting not just health but what we measure in studies like this," Bream said.

While the fact that these pollutants are not working is disturbing, Bream points out that vaccines are still the best way to protect against

diseases. The antibodies produced from vaccines are what save lives.

"The study is a cautionary tale and reminder about the importance of considering environmental factors and toxins relative to public health, and, more specifically, how they may be influencing responses to vaccines," Bream said.

Water flow through Earth mapped

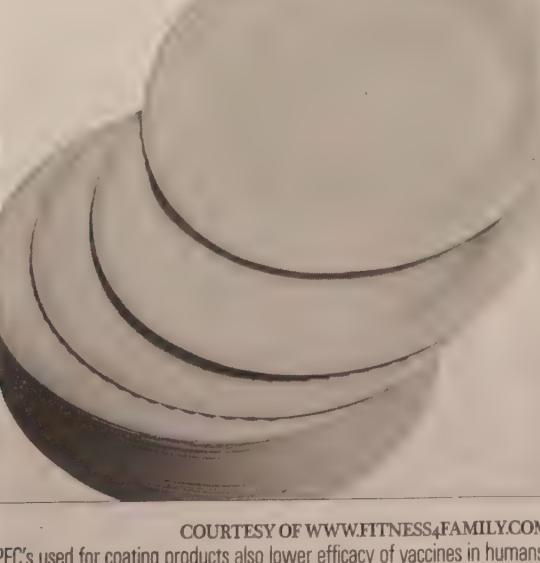
TRENCHES, FROM B7

they might be acting as a kind of water conduit, Wiens explained.

To test this idea, Lizarralde, Wiens and their team of scientists set up sensors around a section of the trench, using sound waves to create a picture of the area's geologic structure. As rocks move through the crust to reach the mantle, they are subjected to extremely high temperatures and pressure.

Most of these rocks, however, cannot withstand these subduction zone conditions, causing water within them to be squeezed out before they can make it to the mantle. Therefore, scientists hope to discover traces of serpentine, which is a mineral with the ability to retain water molecules within its crystal structure.

The team hopes to collect all of their data by early 2013 and to discover more about the elusive presence of water in the Earth's interior. They believe that water might be doing more than simply aiding the mantle's viscosity. Wiens believe that water may actually play a role in plate tectonics, which is essential to the formation of our home planet, Earth.



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PFCs used for coating products also lower efficacy of vaccines in humans.

Briefs in Psychology

Narcissists are favored during interviews

While they are annoying coworkers, narcissists actually fare better in interviews than their humble counterparts. Interviewers like people who love talking about themselves, since it implies that the applicant is confident and knows what they're doing.

The winning strategy of narcissism is backed by research. People tend to rate chronic self-promoters higher than more modest applicants. As one might expect, the key to their success lies in the delivery, not the fact that they are arrogant. Narcissists smile, gesture and compliment others more often.

When narcissists are challenged, they become even more arrogant. They take the challenge as an invitation to promote themselves even more. Thus, they double their efforts to try to appear more fantastic.

Narcissists may appear to be very confident and capable, but they do not necessarily work more efficiently or get along well with others. In fact, it would probably be better for the company if executives refrained from hiring too many self-absorbed people.

Rejection hurts equally online and in-person

Being ignored hurts, whether you are on Facebook or in real life. Face-

book provides a venue for establishing social connections; however, the mask of online anonymity makes it easy to reject and hurt others. Indeed, recent research at Penn State and Misericordia University confirms that people react to in-person and online exclusion in similar ways.

In one study, researchers set up scenarios in which student research assistants posed as college students. They ignored participants during a staged icebreaker conversation. The participants were either excluded during an in-person conversation or over an online setting.

Although participants from an earlier, hypothetical study believed that they would experience distress when excluded, the students who were exposed to the staged scenario actually reacted with numbness as they distanced themselves from the conversation.

While the subjects tended to overestimate their reaction to being excluded, they were also quick to throw blame onto others: the vast majority of participants believed that the research assistants were to blame for their exclusion. Joshua Smyth, co-author of the study, suggests that this attribution of blame may be a protective mechanism for saving the excluded person's mood and self-esteem.

The Internet is not the place to be if one wants to dull the pain of rejection. However, the online relationships are not purely detrimental. For one, the Internet offers many opportunities for people to enhance their physical and

emotional health, if they know where to look.

Longer Ads evoke more emotion

Advertisements can get really annoying, especially if they drone on and on. According to a study conducted in the Basque Autonomous Community, long commercials and ads that show violence or disgust are more emotionally evocative than their short and sunny counterparts. These findings could help companies and media organizations launch more successful ad campaigns.

While insanely annoying for YouTube viewers, longer commercials have more time to explain themselves and can better adjust to the anticipated emotions of the spectator.

In addition, when the ad touches on social or moral behavior, the watchers often respond with more intense emotions — perhaps because long and dramatic ads are more like soap operas and movies.

This study pioneers the use of emotional detectors in studies of advertising. Beyond measuring viewer reactions to advertisements, researchers wish to determine whether people respond more favorably to positive or negative ads.

The findings from these studies could give politicians, and even ambitious college students, a clue as to whether to frame social issues in a positive or negative context.

—Briefs by Melanie Hsu

Bigger brain size, bigger friend circle

By ERICK SUN

Sports Editor

Ever since the discovery of "Lucy," the partial skeleton of the potential human ancestral species *Australopithecus afarensis* found in Ethiopia, researchers have been trying to map out the evolutionary progress to the modern humans species, *Homo sapiens*.

Work done by Professor Robin Dunbar of the University of Oxford for the British Academy Centenary's "Lucy to Language" project offers a piece to the puzzle in relation to human brain development.

In the study, the team found that the size of the orbital frontal cortex of the human brain correlates with the number of friends an individual has. While this conclusion alone may seem like more of a statement on social constructs rather than evolution, the way Dunbar and his group reached those conclusions is where the real information lies.

The orbital frontal cor-

tex, OFC for short, is the region of the brain where cognitive skills for social interactions such as maintaining conversations and understanding another person's thinking is held.

The process, called "mentalizing" by social scientists, encompasses the various tasks necessary for humans to make social connections with the people around them.

These are key functions utilized in present-day socializing skills that lead to an individual having more social connections and more friends. As a result, Dunbar concluded that subjects with a larger OFC were able to make more friends because of their increased ability to connect with others.

From an evolutionary standpoint, the size of human OFCs points to the highly complex societies that have developed over the years and the necessity for humans to navigate the countless social parameters that exist.

Compared with other

primate species, Dunbar's team has found that humans have had a dramatically larger increase in brain size, specifically in the OFC, in the last half millions years.

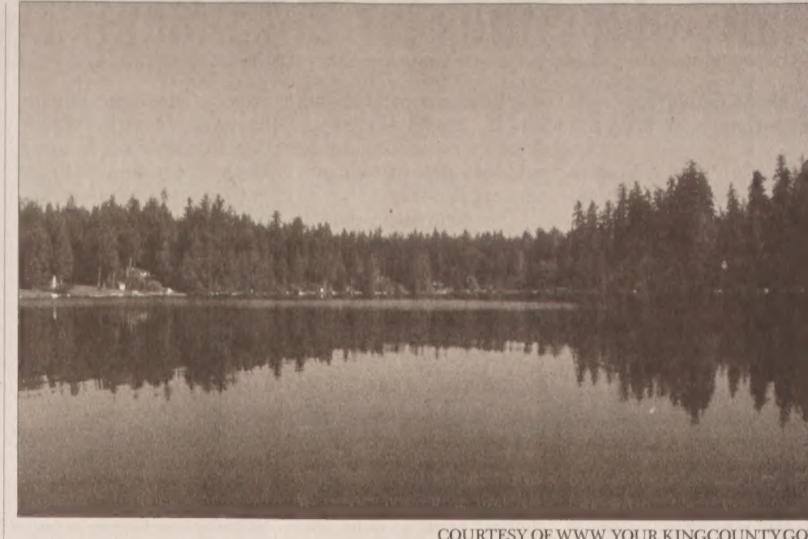
The research was conducted by taking anatomical MR images of 40 volunteer brains, all of whom were postgraduate students with similar ages.

These volunteers also filled out a survey asking for a list of all social interactions they had in the past week.

Although the sample size was relatively small, Dunbar emphasized to *ScienceDaily* that these individuals were all of similar age and had similar opportunities to make friends.

However, Dunbar was also quick to note that several other factors also play a role in mentalizing, implying that the social abilities of people are a mixture of various determinants.

The findings were published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.



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Daphnia evolve under pressure

MultiDrug-Resistant Organisms (MDROs)

are a medical nightmare

for drug companies, physicians and patients alike.

However, recent research has shown that even though these organisms have the best armor, they are not always the most successful at protecting themselves from harm. According to a study conducted at the Georgia Institute of Technology, less resistance is sometimes more, at least in the case of the water flea, *Daphnia*.

Daphnia dentifera, a species of freshwater zooplankton, must frequently deal with epidemics of a virulent yeast parasite, *Metschnikowia bicuspidata*.

During these stressful times, the parasite can infect more than 60 percent

of the water flea population,

forcing the fleas to choose between prioritizing resistance and reproduction.

Host populations attempt to reduce infection rates by investing in either immunity or reproduction.

Increasing a host's reproduction rate increases the number of uninfected individuals

and can give rise to more parasitic-resistant individuals

through genetic recombination.

On the other hand, increasing a host's immunity decreases the chances of it being infected

in the first place. Of course,

parasites must make an investment choice as well —

their options are usually increased infectivity or increased virulence.

Daphnia populations choose their investments depending on their ecological situations.

When ecological factors favor small epidemics, it is better for *Daphnia* to invest in reproduction rather than defense.

For the study, the researchers monitored nutrient levels, predation levels and parasitic infection rates in seven Indiana lakes

on a weekly basis over a period of four months.

They calculated infection rates using survey methods, estimated resource levels by

measuring the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen

in the water and assessed

predation rates by measuring the size of uninfected

Daphnia adults.

To add to the data, the researchers used laboratory infection assays on *Daphnia* individuals from each of the lakes at two points in the experiment — in late July before the epidemics began, and in mid-November as epidemics subsided.

These assays measured the extent of *M. bicuspidata* uptake and the infectivity of the yeast once consumed.

The assays revealed that in

six of the seven lake populations, there was a significant evolutionary response of *Daphnia*.

The population became significantly more infection-resistant in three of the lakes surveyed and became significantly more susceptible to infection in three other lakes. While the hosts in the seventh lake did not show significant changes in susceptibility, they were trending towards increased resistance.

Also, in the lake populations that showed a significant evolutionary response, the epidemics were larger when the lakes had lower predation rates and higher

total levels of nitrogen.

Evolutionary arms races are a fact of life and very rarely do clear winners emerge.

An often-cited example is the showdown between the garter snake and rough-skinned newt. On

the surface, garter snakes appear to be the winners, as some individuals have evolved the ability to consume the most toxic newts without biting the dust.

However, it turns out that the newts level the playing field at the molecular level — the Tetrodotoxins (TTX) in their skin can prevent sodium ions in garter snake nerve-cell channels from flowing freely, causing temporary nerve paralysis and even disruption of basic cell functions.

Daphnia may not ever escape from their yeasty leechers, but they can try to make things better by betting their money on the traits that are appropriate for their ecological situation.

True to researchers' predictions, *Daphnia* evolved higher resistance during larger epidemics and less resistance during smaller ones, indicating that the environment ultimately influences evolutionary outcomes and determines which trait is more adaptive.

The research team plans to repeat the study this summer to support their observations of the relationships between ecological factors, epidemic size and host evolution.

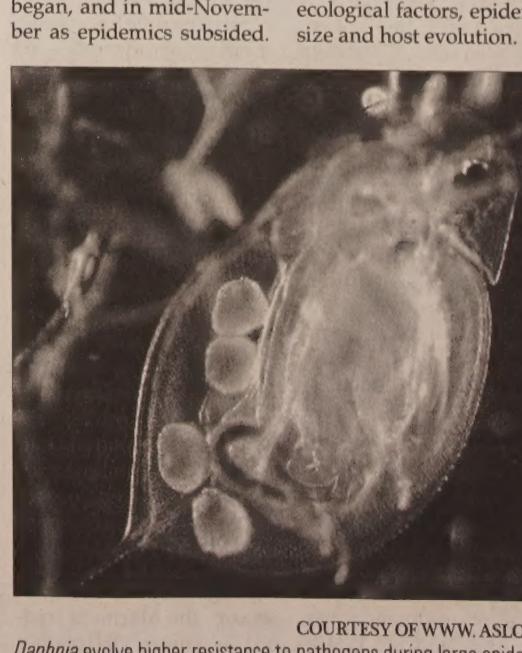
Melanie Hsu

Animal Antics



COURTESY OF WWW.YEQUAKER.CA

A new correlation was found between the size of the orbital frontal cortex and the number of friends one has.



COURTESY OF WWW.ASLO.ORG

Daphnia evolve higher resistance to pathogens during large epidemics.

SPORTS

Many storylines for 2012 Major League Baseball season

By MIKE KANEN

Sports Editor

The 2012 Major League Baseball season began last week in Tokyo, and every team will play its first game by this Friday. With this in mind, it's time to roll out *The News-Letter's* annual MLB preview. A year ago, I picked the Red Sox over the Brewers in the World Series, harping on their respective off-season additions as the keys to what I thought would be their 2011 title runs.

And while I'm not straying from that line of thinking again this year, the 2012 World Series will revolve more around the smaller, less media-frenzied moves than the major free-agent signings of Albert Pujols, Prince Fielder and Yu Darvish that transpired this winter.

AL EAST**The Winner: New York Yankees.**

Even in baseball's best division — yes, the AL East still holds an edge over the vast improved AL West and NL East divisions — it's tough to argue against the Bombers repeating as division champs.

Fresh off a 97-win campaign a season ago, the Yankees addressed their most glaring need this offseason by trading for behemoth right-hander Michael Pineda and signing Hiroki Kuroda from the Dodgers. They also re-added pinstripe faithful Andy Pettitte, together giving New York what I consider baseball's most productive offseason.

New York posted baseball's best run differential in 2011 and hopes for continued growth from Robinson Cano, Curtis Granderson and Brett Gardner. The key will be the health and production of the Yankees' older moneymen — Derek Jeter (age 38 in June), Alex Rodriguez (age 37 in July) and Mark Teixeira (age 32 next week) — who need to contribute like they did in their youth.

Knockin' on the door: Toronto Blue Jays.

To avoid baseball fans, the Blue Jays are well known as the best fourth-place team in baseball. Toronto has finished fourth each of the last four seasons, and that's probably where they will fall again this year. It's not because they're not trying, though.

General manager (GM) Alex Anthopoulos has done a terrific job in his two years at the helm of the organization, becoming a Canadian wunderkind in deals for Jose Bautista, Yunel Escobar, Brett Lawrie, Colby Rasmus, Sergio Santos and others, while also shipping Vernon Wells and Alex Rios elsewhere.

He also began to revitalize the Blue Jays once near-baren farm system, developing the game's largest scouting department, and it has paid dividends through the draft and trades like the Roy Halladay swap. The Jays have proven and promising arms, such as Ricky Romero and Brandon Morrow, and, although they won't land Joey Votto as expected after this season, they have several pieces in place to contend soon.

Breakout candidate: Matt Moore, LHP, Rays.**AL CENTRAL****The Winner: Detroit Tigers.**

This division is, without a doubt, the easiest to pick. The Tigers are head and shoulders above everyone else in the division, featuring the Central's top rotation, headlined by reigning Cy Young Justin Verlander and best lineup, led by Miguel Cabrera and newcomer Fielder.

And, although I'm not a huge fan of closer Jose Valverde — his K/9 numbers have decreased every year since 2006, and his WHIP has increased each of the

last three seasons heading into his age 34 summer — there is something to be said for a perfect, save percentage, last year.

The continued maturation of Doug Fister, Max Scherzer and Rick Porcello, in addition to resolving their serious defensive questions, will be vital for another Motor City celebration. All in all, Detroit has the right pieces to contend for a World Series title in 2012.

Knockin' on the door: Kansas City Royals.

Going into last season, the Royals' farm system was widely considered one of the best in the history of baseball. The club landed a record nine players on *Baseball America's* top 100-prospect list. Later in the summer, Kansas City began to see the fruits of several impressive draft classes, as youngsters Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas and many others were called up to the Bigs.

Since then, GM Dayton Moore has tried to lock up several pieces of this core, beginning with Billy Butler and outfielder Alex Gordon, who finally started to fulfill the promise that once made him the second overall pick in 2005. At the same time, Moore has avoided bad contracts, such as the ones he gave to Gil Meche and Jose Guillen just a few winters ago, something few others in the division have done.

Just as important as Kansas City's youth movement, they are just one of two teams in the Central not bogged down by poor long-term deals like the ones handed to Joe Mauer and Adam Dunn last offseason and Fielder months ago.

The other, the Indians, have far from the minor league riches that the Royals possess. Yes, things are looking up in KC.

Breakout candidate: Jason Kipnis, 2B, Indians**AL WEST****The winner: Los Angeles Angels.**

I've tossed and turned in my sleep over this division, mulling the differences between the Halos and the two-time reigning American League champion Texas Rangers. But here's why I think the Angels trump Nolan Ryan's herd: pitching wins championships.

Don't look now, but the Angels staff — Jered Weaver, Dan Haren, CJ Wilson and Ervin Santana — rivals the Phillies' and Giants' as one of the most talented corps of arms in baseball.

As for the Rangers, their rotation is a question mark. They lost their ace, Wilson, and are now counting on Japanese import Yu Darvish, former closer Neftali Feliz, and young lefthanders Derek Holland and Matt Harrison to shoulder a very heavy load. All four of these arms could have breakout campaigns, but Darvish and Feliz will be rookie rotation mates, and the Southpaws are coming off 2011 seasons, in which they both greatly increased their workload — a troubling sign for pitchers 25 years old or younger.

Both teams have good, if not great, offenses — I'd take Texas' because Los Angeles is so right-handed — but the difference in pitching will be the difference in the division.

Knockin' on the door: Seattle Mariners.

I would like to pick the Rangers here. After all, they have one of baseball's richest farm systems, showing time and time again that they are willing to invest in young international talents. But GM Jon Daniels and Texas aren't sneaking up on anyone. Instead, the Mariners just might be.

While every other team in the AL West made a big free agent splash this offseason, the Mariners traded for young DH/catcher Jesus Montero and their

young pitching should have them back in contention in due time. It won't be this year, and it might not be the year after, but when Albert Pujols begins to age, the heat of Texas wears on the Rangers' young arms, and the A's continue to wait around for their new ballpark, the Mariners' pitching staff of Felix Hernandez, Danny Hultzen, Taijuan Walker and James Paxton will be coming into its own.

Around the same time, Dustin Ackley, Justin Smoak, Montero and prospects Nick Franklin and Francisco Martinez should give Seattle enough juice to chase down the division's powers.

Breakout candidate: Ackley, 2B, Mariners.**Wild Cards: Tampa Bay Rays, Boston Red Sox:**

Tampa has holes behind the plate and at shortstop, but their young pitching should keep them in the playoff hunt. Boston was the best team in baseball from May-September last year, even without healthy or normal performances from Kevin Youkilis and Carl Crawford, so I expect them to rebound and battle the Yankees in the American League Championship Series.

MVP and Cy Young: Adrian Gonzalez and Jered Weaver.**NL EAST****The Winner: Philadelphia Phillies.**

The Phillies are far from the shoo-in they were a year ago when they built one of baseball's greatest rotations on paper; the Big Three of Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee and Cole Hamels largely lived up to the hype. While those three should dominate once again, Philadelphia's offense is older and even more injury-prone than it was a year ago.

Ryan Howard, Placido Polanco and Chase Utley will all start the season on the disabled list, with the season outlook of Howard and Utley extremely cloudy. All said, though, the postseason race will come back to pitching, and even if the \$50 million doled out to Jonathan Papelbon this winter may have been a steep price, the Fightin' should feel secure in who they have on the mound in almost any inning. Because of this, it's tough to believe that Phillie fans won't be loving October baseball.

Knockin' on the door: Washington Nationals. While it's tough to be a sleeper pick when you play in the nation's Capital and own two of the most highly touted young players in the game in Stephen Strasburg and Bryce Harper, the Nats most certainly are a sleeper. Washington hasn't finished .500 since 2005 when they were 81-81 and still played in Montreal.

Yet I, and National manager Davey Johnson, expect D.C. to witness post-season baseball this year. Right now, I have them as

the best team in the division.

Knockin' on the door: Atlanta Braves, San Francisco Giants.

Atlanta, like Boston, will rebound from their collapse late September because of their staggering rotation depth. The Giants return plenty of pitching but the Nationals, Marlins, Brewers and Cardinals will be knocking. They need to prove they can hit.

MVP and Cy Young: Justin Upton and Roy Halladay.**World Series: New York Yankees over Cincinnati Reds.**

the National League's sixth best team, just behind the San Francisco Giants solely because their pitching staff is less proven. However, Strasburg, coupled with former Division III college baseball star Jordan Zimmermann, give Washington a pair of flamethrowers coming off injuries.

They also added strikeout machine Gio Gonzalez, by utilizing their bountiful farm system, and Edwin Jackson in the offseason, giving the squad a dangerously talented rotation. The bullpen, led by closer Drew Storen, is also ultra talented, and Ryan Zimmerman's offense should get a boon when Harper is called up in June. First in war, first in peace, last in the National League is a thing of the past.

Breakout candidate: Mesoraco, C, Reds.**NL WEST****The Winner: Arizona Diamondbacks.**

Surprisingly, few people are as high on Arizona heading into the season as I am. And, although I hear the worries as much as the next guy — predicted down years from pitchers Trevor Cahill and Ian Kennedy in addition to offensive catalyst Ryan Roberts — the Diamondbacks are still the most talented team in the division. San Francisco did not upgrade their offense well, the Dodgers were limited by financial constraints, the Rockies have little to no pitching, and the Padres are rebuilding. Thus, Justin Upton and the D-Backs will prevail, not by default, but because of their young core and rotation depth.

Their deal to land Mat Latos, a young, team-controlled potential ace for a host of prospects, whose futures in Cincinnati were blocked by Joey Votto and Devin Mesoraco, was the defining addition of the division's winter. And their one-year deal for closer Ryan Madson was a steal.

But then Madson had Tommy John surgery last week, and the Reds risked the future of the franchise with a gargantuan ten-year \$225 million extension for Votto on Monday. Even with these circumstances, Cincinnati is primed for the playoffs because of their unquestioned depth around the horn and in the rotation; already their bullpen depth is being utilized, as Sean Marshall will step into the Reds' closer's role for Madson.

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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
ALEX ELIOPOULOSBy ERICK SUN
Sports Editor

Standing at six-foot-six, senior right-handed pitcher Alex Eliopoulos has been a towering force all season long for the Hopkins baseball team. Named as a preseason second team All-American by d3baseball.com and a top 10 Division III prospect by PerfectGame.org, the nation's largest baseball recruiting service, Eliopoulos has made good on that billing by starting 2012 with a 4-0 record and a sparkling 1.02 ERA in seven starts.

Furthermore, the senior from Arlington, VA leads all Hopkins pitchers with a .217 batting-average-against, 47 strikeouts, and 44.1 innings pitched.

For his third win of the season, last Tuesday March 28 against Dickinson, Eliopoulos threw a complete game, six-hitter, while striking out a career high 11 in the 3-2 win. Despite throwing 157 pitches in the game, Eliopoulos started

against Centennial Conference foe McDaniel College a week later looking to earn his fourth win of the season. When asked about his workload, Eliopoulos said, "I threw a lot of pitches in the Dickinson game, but I was ready to go for McDaniel. The coaching staff did a good job to prepare me for the game, and I felt like I was ready to pitch from the start."

Eliopoulos shut the Green Terror down through five innings, allowing only two hits and no runs while walking two and striking out three. He needed just 51 pitches to carve through their lineup.

Behind the arm of *The Newsletter's* Athlete of the Week, Hopkins went on to defeat McDaniel 9-5 in front of the home fans at the JHU Baseball Diamond.

FILE PHOTO
Eliopoulos dominated the Green Terror for five innings.

With the win, the Blue Jays improved to 13-8-2 on the season and 4-1 in the Centennial Conference, while dropping McDaniel to 1-4 in conference play.

With his five score-

less innings this past Tuesday, Eliopoulos extended his scoreless earned runs streak to 25, dating back to his Mar. 9th start against Stevenson.

Eliopoulos credits his sinker and slider for his strong pitching.

"Typically, my favorite count to throw my slider is a 3-2 count which is pretty unconventional, but I love that pitch. I like the challenge of having to throw a strike with that pitch in that count and most hitters aren't expecting it. I trust myself to throw it and let it do what it's supposed to."

For his career, Eliopoulos has been a consistent performer for Head coach Bob Babb. While Eliopoulos played minimally as a freshman, he burst onto the stage in his sophomore season with a 10-1 record and

a 2.83 ERA. He followed his tremendous sophomore campaign with an equally impressive junior season, leading the team with a 6-3 record while dropping his ERA to 2.38.

If the start of 2012 is any indication, Eliopoulos' final season could be his best. However, his success, he says, isn't the result of focusing on any one thing.

"I focus on working hard and getting better. That's my approach everyday. I also try to visualize everything that I do," the senior said.

What's more, Eliopoulos may be able to continue his baseball career after graduating with a potential opportunity to tryout for Team Greece and play in the 2013 World Baseball Classic.

If he makes the team, it would be fitting for him to be taking his play to the next level of competition. According to junior shortstop Kyle Neverman, Eliopoulos has "been phenomenal just a man among boys."

As the Blue Jays look to defend their conference crown and achieve an unprecedented fifth straight title, the team will rely on Eliopoulos to come up big throughout the season. And with coach Babb's motto of "win one game everyday" in mind, the senior star will certainly be ready when his number is called.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Alex Eliopoulos
Year: Senior
Hometown: Arlington, VA
High School: The Heights
Major: Economics with Business Minor
Accomplishments: The senior has blown opposing hitters away, posting a team and Centennial Conference best 44 strikeouts on the season.

Jays athletes excel at MD Invite

By JEFF SCHILL
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's track and field team traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina to partake in the Raleigh Relays this past Friday. Sophomore Holly Clarke and freshman Hannah Eckstein repre-

with a decisive victory in the 5,000 meter race, finishing with a time of 18:32.92. This was Sanborn's best race to date in a Blue Jay uniform as she beat her next closest runner by over 100 meters. Freshman Abby Flock also ran well, finishing fourth in the event.

In the 800 meter run, ju-

The Blue Jay sprinters had a strong performance in College Park. Freshman Kelley Hussey posted a score to ranks her second in the 100 meter (13.14). Sophomore Chloe Ryan and junior Amelia Vallinella tied for fourth.

The Hopkins men's track team was also in action this past week at College Park. The Blue Jays also faced stiff competition from Division I opponents but were able to have many good early season scores. Freshman Ryan Walsh made a statement in his high jump performance (6'2" (1.88)), landing him in first place in the Centennial Conference, but only good enough for sixth place in the event. Sophomore Jon Hickman also found himself in first place in the Centennial Conference but only finished in eighth for the discus event. The Blue Jays also set a conference leading time in the 4 X 400 meter relay at 3:34.39.

The distance runners for the Blue Jays all showed their abilities. In the 1500-meter run, Julian Saliani (4:04.24), sophomores Wes Butler (4:04.47), Robert Ferris (4:04.80) and senior Brett Schwartz (4:05.19) all had impressive times.

It is clear that the team has the ability to stack up against some of the top Division I programs in the country. Not only did the Blue Jays post scores that were atop of the Centennial Conference, they were able to amass top rankings amongst some Division I opponents. The Blue Jays can carry this conference into their next event in Millersville, PA to compete in the Millersville Metrics and Combined Events Challenge on Apr. 6th.

In the javelin throw, Emily Swenson recorded a throw of 38.48 meters, which landed her a second place finish in the event and in the lead in the Centennial Conference. Swenson also performed well in the shot, throwing for a distance of 11.75 meters, tops in the conference. Right behind Swenson was junior teammate Alana Merkow who threw for 11.64 meters. She ranks second in the Centennial Conference. In the pole vault, Kelsey Bower had a score of 10' (3.05) and placed fourth in the meet.

sented the Blue Jays in the event. Clarke and Eckstein placed 10th and 14th in the 10,000-meter event. This was against steep competition, matching up against Division I opponents. For the six mile, 376 yd race, Clarke ran a time of 36:10.39 and Eckstein followed closely behind coming in at 36:33.82. In Division III, these scores took the number two and three spots in the nation. Their performance on the national stage this past weekend in North Carolina was truly a remarkable accomplishment for the two Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays returned to action the next day in College Park, Maryland to compete in the Maryland Invitational. Many Division I teams were competing in the event, including teams such as Maryland and the Naval Academy. The Blue Jays competed well on the day and many set personal records.

Freshman Lindsay San-

FILE PHOTO
Hopkins athletes did well against even stiff Div. I schools at the MD Invitational.Baseball
trumps
Green
Terror

BASEBALL, FROM B12

McDaniel scored five runs.

Sophomore Ed Bryner replaced Kahn to end the inning at a much closer 9-5, where the score would stay for the remainder of the game.

"I like what [Head Coach Bob] Babb established in Arizona, our motto of 'winning' one game every day," said junior shortstop Kyle Neverman in response to the win.

"If we do that," he continued, "we'll be in great shape and good position going into the conference tournament... and we'll be where we want to be."

Kahn summed up the team's mentality well, saying "Once we get running on full cylinders and start clicking in all aspects of the game, we're going to have the potential to do great things and we'll certainly be the team to beat."

Junior Hank Sanders outlined the team's goals, saying that they "have to beat McDaniel on Thursday and sweep Swarthmore in order to get closer to our goal of winning the conference and going to the playoffs."

If the team is to realize these ambitious goals, though, they are going to have to cut out their weak spots, reflected for a large part in the seventh inning this Tuesday.

Regardless, as their recent successes indicate, the Blue Jays can most definitely continue to win. These few weak spots are invariably surrounded by much more significant strengths, which will hopefully come to the forefront of their play before the postseason.

The Jays will face Mc-

W. Lacrosse to host
Gators on SaturdayBy JEFF LYNCH
Staff Writer

son with 42 on 22 goals and 20 assists while starting all ten games this season. She has also been shooting at a 0.512 shooting percentage as well as capitalizing on six free position goals in eight opportunities, tops on the team. D'Amore, along with McCaffrey and Rossi, have been named to the watch list for the American Lacrosse Conference Player of the Year, while D'Amore also has been mentioned on the 2012 Tewaaraton Watch List (women's college lacrosse's highest individual honor), along with senior defender Alyssa Kildare.

Head Coach Janine Tucker and her team will have little time to dwell on this loss, as they will look to quickly rebound and continue their late season gauntlet in which six of their last seven games are against teams in the top 15 in the country. Next up is a match-up against the 5th ranked Gators of the University of Florida. The Gators are one of the most impressive offensive clubs in the country, as they have outscored their opponents by more than 150 goals this season in 14 games.

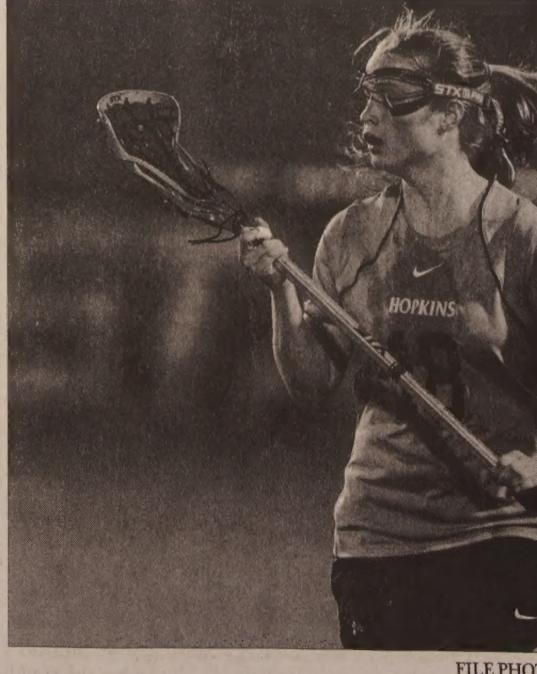
"Florida is a very fast team and has a very effective attack," junior midfielder Courtney Schweizer said, and the Lady Blue Jays are planning to defend against this by adding an extra defender and playing only two midfielders. In addition to the extra defender, the Jays will look to face guard U of F's explosive attackers, relying less on sliding to help and more on consistent one-on-one match-ups.

"Extra experience on the defensive end of the field should help to slow them down in transition, and also help us to effectively clear the ball upfield," Schweizer went on to say.

The junior Psychological and Brain Sciences major from Wilmington, DE will be an important part in the Lady Blue Jays success against the Gators for her versatility in both defending and scoring, as she has taken on more of an offensive role this season with her career high 15 goals through the first ten games.

"Ultimately, if we execute our defenses and offenses that have been specifically tailored to utilize our strengths while exploiting Florida's weaknesses, we could and should control the outcome of the game to be in our favor."

The American Lacrosse Conference tilt between the Gators and the Lady Blue Jays is set to begin on Saturday, Apr. 7th at 1:00 PM on historic Homewood Field. Be sure to come out and support women's lacrosse as the season really heats up and watch them try to tame the Gators and send them back down south with a loss.

FILE PHOTO
19th ranked Women's lacrosse fell 14-11 to a strong Vanderbilt squad.

SPORTS

Women's tennis rolls to sweep over Bears

By ASHLEY MILLETTE
Staff Writer

In the past few months, the Hopkins women's tennis team has faced many formidable opponents including top ranked Williams, Tufts and Emory. While the Lady Jays did face several difficult matches and a few defeats, they have become a formidable team themselves, recently moving to the eighth spot in the Division III rankings.

The Blue Jays secured their seventh win of the season last Saturday against fellow Centennial Conference school, Ursinus. Mastering both the singles and doubles rounds in their matches against the Bears, Hopkins came out with a sweeping win of 9-0.

Starting off the matches were doubles partners junior Andrea Berlinghof and freshman Macie Wilkins, who pulled out an 8-0 win. Senior Courtney Boger, freshman Kaitlin Pfisterer, freshmen Shannon Libaw and Stephanie Rettig then followed with back-to-back sweeps of 8-0.

Pfisterer, who cinched the 9-0 win for the Blue Jays, commented that their match-up against the Bears comprised a rather unique set of circumstances.

"It was the first time this season that the girls' and boys' tennis teams were sharing the courts," Pfisterer said.

Despite the extra action going on around the Lady Jays, Pfisterer, who's decision to come to Hopkins was greatly affected by its great tennis program, noted that she felt the Ursinus match was a great testament of how strong their team has become.

"During this match everyone who was on the court played great and stayed focused, and those who weren't on the court at the moment were on the sidelines cheering the others on," the freshman said. "We also had a great fan section compiled of friends and family that came to support us."

With very few loses in any of the singles games, the Jays came out strong all around with most girls losing only one or two games. Freshman Shannon Hemandon stood out, clearing all games with a 6-0, 6-0 win.

With such a positive outcome so far this season, Pfisterer stated that the Lady Jays hope to continue to strengthen their team and improve their record.

"Currently, our team is ranked very high national-

ly and we hold the highest ranking this program has ever had. So far, we have had a great season and great results — especially against top teams. We lost to Williams 6-3, Emory 5-4, Washington and Lee 5-4, and we have beaten Tufts 8-1 and Dennison 5-1. These results show that we are right there with all of the top teams in the country, and we have a great chance at NCAA's.

"As a team, I think our goals are to give everything we have and to pull through one or two more individual matches against the top teams so we can continue to improve and move forward."

It is worth noting that Williams, Emory, Tufts and Dennison are all currently ranked above Hopkins, showing that even when facing the most competitive of teams, Hopkins is a force to be reckoned with.

In a sport that is rather individualized, Pfisterer states that she finds teamwork and camaraderie to be quite important.

"Tennis is a very unique sport in that it has both individual and team aspects. Growing up playing tennis, we all have learned and grown to love tennis as mostly an individual sport. However, once we reached the college level, we were introduced to the team aspect of the sport and that has made the game that much better."

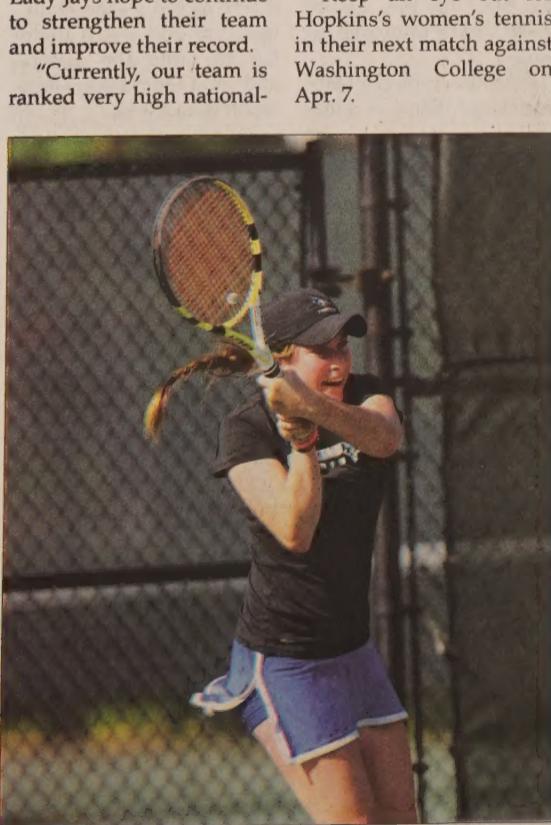
"There are about 15 girls on the tennis team all with different majors, personalities and backgrounds, but we all share important things: the love for the sport, the desire to do our best and our supportive nature."

Pfisterer further commented that the frequent practices, games and travel help to bring the girls together.

"I can personally state that when I am in a close match, just looking over and seeing my teammates on the next court or nearby cheering me on, makes me push myself to the next level as I have the desire to do our best and our supportive nature."

As for personal goals Pfisterer keeps it short and simple. "My personal goal for the season is just to do everything and anything I can do to help my team become better and win the most matches we possibly can."

Keep an eye out for Hopkins's women's tennis in their next match against Washington College on Apr. 7.



Sophomore Hailey Hogan was the reigning conference player of the week.

Lady Jays' win streak snapped at Vandy



FILE PHOTO

After four straight wins by a combined seven goals against tough opponents like Harvard and Princeton, women's lacrosse traveled to Nashville, TN this past weekend to take on Vanderbilt. Although the Jays lost, falling to 7-3 on the year, Hopkins did receive five goals from senior attackman Rachel Ballatori (above). For full coverage, please see Page B11.

#3 Men's Lacrosse toppled by Tar Heels

By ERICK SUN
Sports Editor

With wins over then number-five Syracuse and top-ranked Virginia in the past week, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team grabbed the number one spot in both the InsideLacrosse/Nike Media Poll and the Coaches Poll for the 104th time in program history.

However, the dynamic University of North Carolina attack, led by freshman standout Jimmy Bitter, was relentless against a Hopkins defense that perhaps was poised for a letdown after two emotional victories the previous week.

As a result, Hopkins came out flat against the Tar Heels at the Konica Minolta Big-City Classic, letting the Tar Heels take a quick 4-2 lead through most of the first quarter.

While junior goaltender Pierce Bassett made several key stops, the defense could not handle the quickness of UNC's Bitter who had two goals in the first 15 minutes.

The freshman routinely forced the Hopkins defense to send multiple defenders his way in an attempt to slow down his drives to the net. His performance was reminiscent of the play of his older brother, Billy Bitter, who had four goals against Hopkins in last season's matchup.

Despite the difficult start for Hopkins, two quick goals in the final two minutes of the opening frame allowed the Blue Jays to tie the game up at 4-4. Senior team captain Chris Boland made a triumphant return from a shoulder injury in the season opener, which caused him to miss seven games. The sixth year senior made his mark early, scoring and assisting on his team's third and fourth goals, respectively.

In the second quarter, the Blue Jays were unable to capitalize on this momentum. UNC Sophomore R.G. Keenan dominated at

the face-off "X," going 18-25 on the day and allowing the Tar Heels to work mul-

The comeback was short-lived though, as UNC would use a 3-5 fourth



FILE PHOTO

The Blue Jays return to action Thursday night at 7 PM against Albany.

tiple possessions against the Blue Jay defense, the large difference in time-of-possession ultimately wearing the defense down.

Hopkins was out-shot 22-2 in the second quarter, and the discrepancy showed on the scoreboard. By the time the two teams were heading for the locker room, the Tar Heels had outscored Hopkins 4-0 in the quarter for a 4-8 lead.

While the four goal deficit would certainly be a challenge to overcome, head coach Dave Pietramala must have done something to fire his team up during the halftime break.

After a dismal second quarter, the Blue Jays took the field in the third looking more like the team that had

run past Syracuse and Virginia on the way to an 8-0 record.

Goals from sophomore Brandon Benn, junior Lee Coppersmith and sophomore Greg Edmonds brought the Blue Jays within one of UNC at 7-8.

With more possession and an outstanding effort from the defense, Hopkins was able to fight their way back against a Tar Heel team looking to clip the wings off the top ranked Blue Jays.

Furthermore, the loss offers an opportunity for the team to finally face some adversity in what has been a relatively smooth 2012 season. While no loss can ever be considered a good thing, this may allow the team to find areas for improvement and to gain some necessary experience for the post-season.

The Blue Jays will look to return to form tonight against Albany University on Homewood Field.

DID YOU KNOW?

In just Head coach Dave Woodring's second season, Hopkins women's tennis has achieved its highest ranking in the history of the program, now eighth nationally.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY
M. Lacrosse vs. Albany, 7 PM
SATURDAY
M. Tennis vs. Haverford, 11 AM
Baseball vs. Swarthmore, 12:30 PM (DH)
W. Lacrosse vs. Florida, 1 PM
W. Tennis vs. Washington, 3 PM
WEDNESDAY
W. Lacrosse vs. Virginia, 5:30 PM

INSIDE

Men's Tennis: Undefeated in CC

The 16th-ranked men's tennis team improved their conference record to 5-0 this week, tackling Ursinus and Franklin and Marshall for easy wins, 9-0 and 7-2, respectively.

Athlete of the Week: Alex Eliopoulos

Senior pitcher Alex Eliopoulos has not allowed an earned run since March 9th, beating both Dickinson and McDaniel in conference play. The six-foot-six righty is a team captain. Page B11

MLB Preview: Extensive Coverage

The Major League Baseball season is officially underway and Mike Kanen gets you ready with his take on each division's winner and up-and-coming teams. Page B10